

INSIDE: The Megapixel Myth | BYOE: Bring your Own Entertainment | Turn your Smart TV into a Personal Trainer | Greenifying your Home Entertainment System | Heroes of the Storm

GADGETSTM MAGAZINE

THE PHILIPPINES' FIRST TECH

Willy Rodrigues
The Girl Next Door



LG SUPER UHD TV

World's First and World's Largest
105-inch Curved Super ULTRA HD TV

REVIEWED

LG G4
WD My Cloud DL4100
Mi Pad
Asus ZenFone 2
SanDisk iXpand
Nyne Cruiser
Philips Sonicare Airfloss
Nissan X-Trail 4x2 CVT
BYD S6 2.4L DCT

Never Leave
Home
Again
• The Entertainment Issue •

PHP 150



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World's First 105" Curved Super UHD TV



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LG
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Superb Picture

- 5K IPS Panel
- 5K Upscaler
- 5K 3D+
- True Black Control
- Natural Color

Enriched Sound

- Sound design by Harman / Kardon®
- 7.2 Channel, 150 watts
- Ultra Surround
- Smart Sound Mode

Design Technology

- 105 inch Gigantic Screen
- 21:9 Cinematic View
- Curved Screen
- Auditorium Stand
- Floor Speaker Stand

Smart TV

- webOS
- Magic Remote
- Web Browser
- Smart Share
- Music Station
- Wireless Sound Sync

www.lg.com/ph



MARIBELLE M. ALBA
PUBLISHER /
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The quintessential gadgets girl who loves all things Mac, red, and blingy. She's also recently taken a liking to Windows phones. What's in her bag? Lots of wires and cords, several external drives, and power banks. Hide your flash drives, though, they disappear around her.

@bellealba



REN ALCANTARA
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Ren likes puppies, long walks in the park, and zombies. His idea of a perfect day would be a long walk in the park, with a puppy, during a zombie apocalypse.

@hisnameisren



BENEDICT ASAL
GRAPHIC ARTIST

He likes going out with friends, meeting new ones, playing Marvel and Tekken games at the arcade, listening to music, and playing on his keyboard and guitar.

@benedict_asal



JOSE ALVAREZ
CONTRIBUTOR

You'll never find Jose without a controller in his hand—in fact, the WASD keys on his keyboard have been worn out over the years. Aside from games, he also religiously follows several sports, especially soccer, and always has a joke ready to lighten any mood and put a smile on someone's face.

@awperative



GENEVIEVE MAGLAYA
INTERN

Perpetually in love with watching the sunset, playing with her Siberian Huskies, listening to acoustic music, and eating in general, Gene is on a mission to live every minute of every hour of her life to the fullest.

@bibangtheory



MIKA FERNANDEZ-DAVID
ASSISTANT PUBLISHER/
MOTORING EDITOR

Loves family, food, photography, travel, gadgets, office equipment, notebooks & pens, the beach, roadtrips, cooking, foreign supermarkets, coffee, crazy friends, and food trips in the guise of photoshoots. Not necessarily in that order.

@iamsillymama



MIA CARISSE BARRIENTOS
STAFF WRITER

A bibliophile who reads fiction, dystopian, chick-lit, to just plainly weird novels in paperback or eBooks. Fascinated with gadgets and speaks fangirl lexicon and gibberish.

@miaissocoollike



LENG DESUASIDO
GRAPHIC ARTIST

A foolish girl guided by her passions, a little bit of planning, laughter, and yarns.

@lengdesuasido



JONAH MENDOZA
CONTRIBUTOR

Binge-watching series is to blame for her nocturnal habit. She loves the outdoors so much but her first love will be the ocean. On vacations, you will definitely spot her swimming in the sea without a single fear even though she can't reach the bottom anymore.

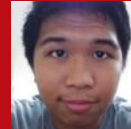
@jonahmendoza



PRESY ALBA
EDITOR-AT-LARGE

Websites, anything and everything Apple, power tools and unusual gadgets excite her. She also loves to travel, go on food trips, and try out all the new things.

@presy1121



CHRIS NOEL HIDALGO
STAFF WRITER

I like boxes.

@cnhidalgo



EM LUZ
GRAPHIC ARTIST

"huurh uugggh uughghhgh"

@emnluz



GREAT MINDS MEDIA, INC.

PRESIDENT & CEO
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
PR & MARKETING STAFF

Maribelle Alba
Mika Fernandez-David
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SALES MANAGER
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The time between the summer months and rainy season might be the least popular one here in our country. It's still too warm to venture outside, and the constant threat of rain dampens trips to the beach. There is a solution though: stay indoors. Inside, you have the power to control the weather, food, entertainment, and access to all of human knowledge, and don't even have to get out of your bedclothes! This month, find an excuse to break out the Snuggie, and enjoy everything home entertainment in all its forms has to offer. Whether it's for gaming, music, movies, or everything in between, we've got a whole lot of tech to banish all thoughts of the outside world from your mind. It's dangerous out there. Stay in.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY Jay Tablante, Canon Crusader of Light for EOS Digital
HAIR AND MAKE UP BY Boombie Bartolome
ART DIRECTION BY Emmanuel Luz and Leng Desuasido
STYLING BY Leng Desuasido
ASSISTED BY Jonah Mendoza
MODEL: Willy Rodrigues of Ideal People Model Management
SHOT ON LOCATION: Aruga by Rockwell



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MUSIC FOR THE SOUL:

Sit down. Get comfortable. Put on your headphones and listen to good music.





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1.7GHz
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8GB ROM | 1GB RAM
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4000 mAh

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13MP & 5MP Camera
USB-OTG
8GB ROM | 1GB RAM
Miracast Ready

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WD DL4100 NAS ▲

Network-Attached Storage

If data is gold, then your storage device is the vault that's meant to keep it all safe. The WD DL4100 is a massive network-attached storage solution that has enough room for practically anything a small or medium office can need. With four bays, and storage capacities up to 24 TB out of the box, the DL4100 can also create redundant backups, direct copy from external HDDs, and even serve as a personal cloud, thanks to WD cloud software. Copious USB ports, LAN ports, and expandable HDD bays mean you won't be short of space, and a 1.7GHz Intel Atom processor, plus 2GB of RAM allows smooth, consistent transfers. For troubleshooting and status updates, the DL4100 comes with an easy-to-read LCD panel up front, so you never have to second-guess troubleshooting issues ever again. On-site, off-site over the cloud, or across the globe, WD has your data covered.

PHP 65,999



◀ Cherry Mobile Flare X Mobile Phone

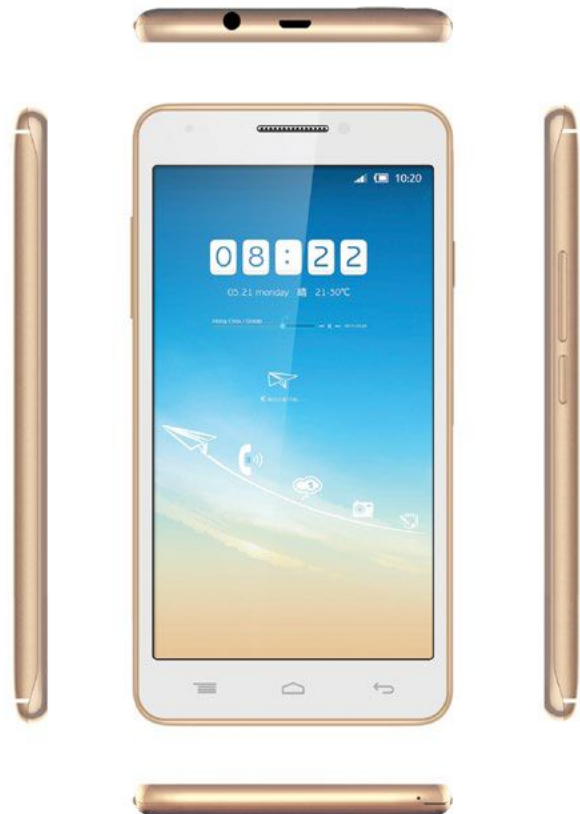
Cherry Mobile is upping their game in the mobile phone market by providing consumers everything they want and need: optimum entertainment, a wider selection of image options, and top-of-the-line image quality, superior gaming experience, and instant and efficient social media connectivity, at an unbelievably affordable price. With the release of its newest device, the Flare X, Cherry Mobile succeeds in combining all four components into one powerful smartphone. It has a remarkable 1.7GHz octa-core processor with 3GB of RAM and a massive 5.5-inch IPS Full HD Screen behind sturdy Corning Gorilla Glass 3 for both work and play. Pictures come courtesy of the device's 13MP Sony IMX 214 main camera for capturing quality images that can be shared instantly online through LTE connectivity.

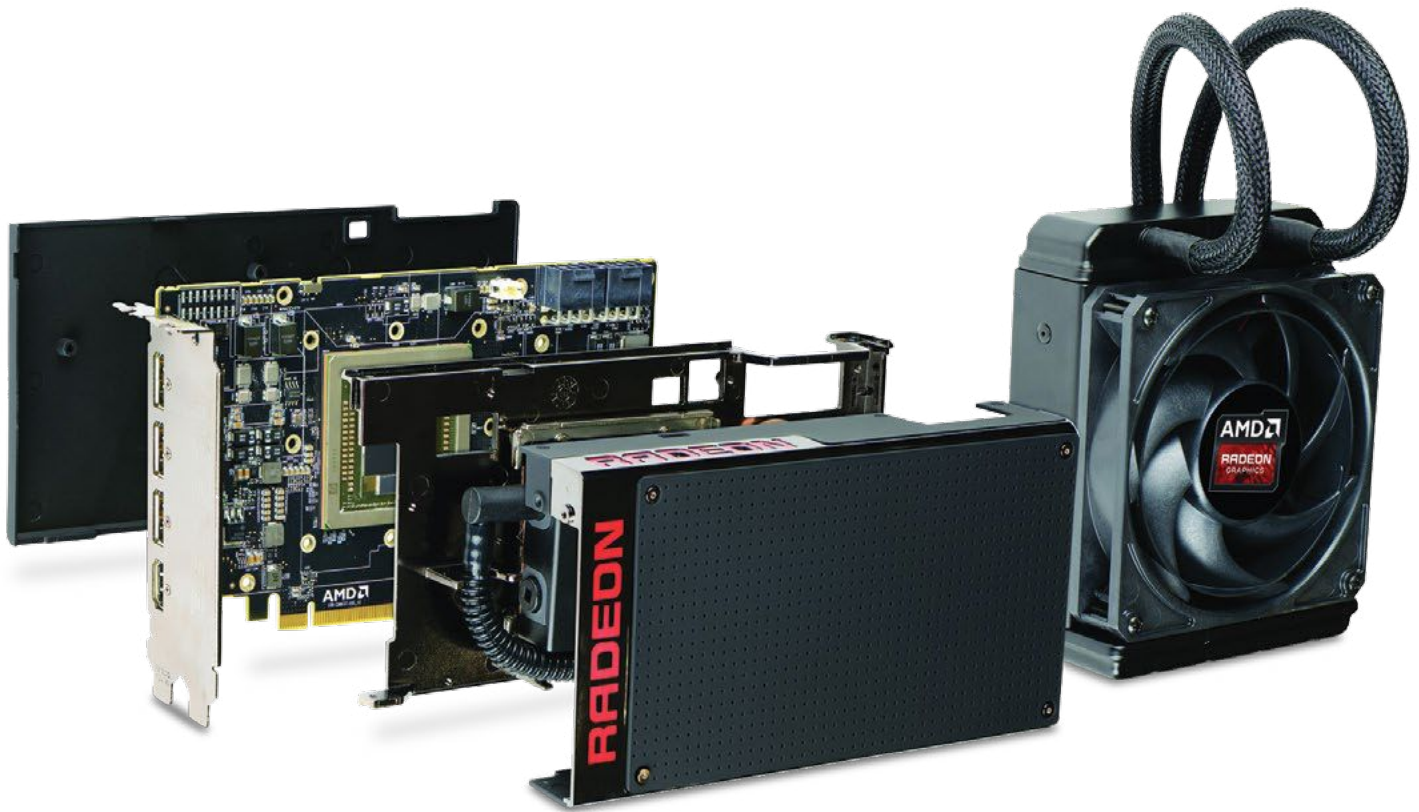
Php 6,999

Cherry Mobile CUBIX ▶ Mobile Phone

Cosmic Technologies Inc., the company behind Cherry Mobile, has partnered with Lazada to bring eager smartphone users their first exclusive online brand, Cubix, and their first device, the Cube. This phone runs on Android KitKat with a crisp 5-inch HD On-Cell Display and a 13MP camera plus a 5MP front camera. It also has a 1.4GHz octa-core Processor coupled with a 2GB RAM and 16GB ROM for compulsive multi-taskers. Get yours on Lazada, starting noon on the 26th of June.

PHP 4,490





AMD Radeon R9 Fury X ▲

Graphics Card

After being dormant for quite some time, the folks from the red team made lots of noise during this year's E3 as they announced the new R9 Fury X GPU. Featuring AMD's pioneering High-Bandwidth Memory (HBM) with 4096-bit memory interface, premium exoskeleton, and liquid-cooling, the Fury X boasts 60-percent more memory bandwidth than the current GDDR5 standard, on top of three-times the performance per watt in 94-percent less PCB real estate. It's also more than ready to support future technologies including AMD's own Mantle and LiquidVR for a 4K gaming experience only a handful can match. Competition is healthy, and the R9 Fury X can only make it healthier.

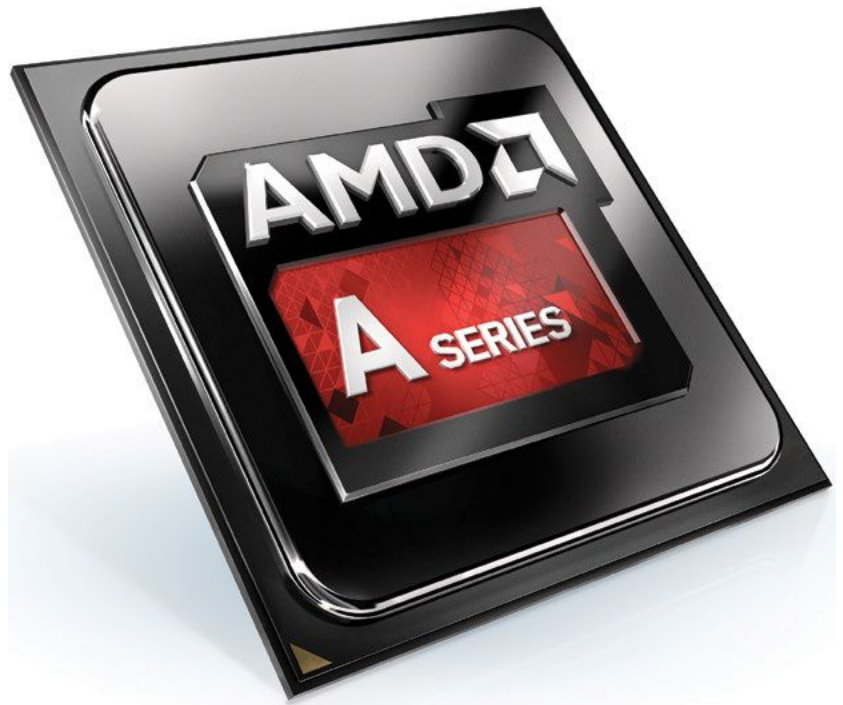


◀ AMD Radeon R9 380 Graphics Card

The Radeon R9 380 delivers almost the same gaming bravado as its bigger brothers without the hefty price tag to deliver an even better performance-per-Peso ratio. At its core is the returning Tonga GPU architecture (now named Antigua Pro) humming up to 970MHz, 4GB of GDDR5 frame buffer clocked at 5.7GHz, 256-bit memory bus, and 1792 stream processors for high frame rates across most titles. It supports Virtual Super Resolution 11 for 4K quality on a 1080p display, AMD's Liquid VR and FreeSync technologies, and next-gen APIs including Mantle, Direct X 12, OpenGL 4.5, and Vulkan. It truly is a great time for gaming.

AMD Carrizo ▶ Accelerated Processing Unit

AMD's sixth-gen A-Series processors previously codenamed Carrizo packs the one-two punch of an elegantly designed CPU-GPU combo in a single chip, netting users impressive computing and graphics performance without the bulk and power needs of separate components. The APU struts 12 Excavator compute cores—4 CPU and 8 GPU—utilizing the third-gen Graphics Core Next processor for up to twice the battery life and gaming performance of competing processors. Carrizo also boasts High Efficiency Video Coding (HEVC) and Heterogeneous System Architecture 1.0 (HSA) for improved user experience no matter the workload. Add to this full DirectX 12 support for real-time load sharing between the GPU cores and a discrete video card, and you can build a rig with the massive power, at a much more manageable price. If efficiency in one package is what you're after, this is it.





◀ SanDisk Ultra Dual USB Drive 3.0

USB OTG

Should your smartphone's internal and expandable memory prove lacking for all your multimedia files, the Ultra Dual USB Drive 3.0 from SanDisk will be a guaranteed storage boon. Featuring both microUSB and USB 3.0 standards, it's able to transfer at speeds up to 130MB/s so you won't have to wait for hours syncing everything. Paired with the SanDisk *Memory Zone* app, Android users can easily organize, transfer, and backup files between their phone and PC, freeing them from the hassle of a wired connection. You'll never run into a "not enough memory" popup ever again.

PHP 699 (16GB)
PHP 1,299 (32GB)
PHP 2,299 (64GB)

SanDisk iXpand ▼

USB OTG

The iPhone's biggest draw against its competitors is its immaculate camera; it's just too darn hard to stop shooting with it! However, it suffers from the Achilles heel of not having any expandable storage options. Good thing there's the SanDisk iXpand flash drive to save you from your memory woes. With a Lightning and USB 2.0 connector on either end, the iXpand allows you to easily transfer files from your Apple devices to any computer. Its companion app, the iXpand Sync, also enables automatic photo and video syncing without loss of quality. Finally, the iXpand has file encryption options so your sensitive files are never glimpsed by prying eyes.

PHP 3,800 (16GB)
PHP 5,500 (32GB)
PHP 8,000 (64GB)
PHP 12,000 (128GB)





◀ **BlackBerry Leap** Smartphone

Fans of BlackBerry, you're in for a treat with the latest from your favorite smartphone manufacturer. Parading a gorgeous 5-inch frame, the all-touch Leap is fit for both consumers and enterprise-level users with its unparalleled balance of security and convenient features. It comes with built-in encryption, malware protection, back-ups, and restore functions giving you peace of mind. The BlackBerry Assistant, on the other hand, helps you efficiently manage emails, contacts, calendar, and other BB native apps allowing you to be more productive on the go. Complementing its sleek aesthetics is BlackBerry 10.3.1 OS, which gives you a fresh look, new icons, and a convenient instant action bar allowing you access to your favorite functions without having to plough through complicated menus.

PHP 13,490



D-Link DWR-710 Le Petit HSPA+ Router ▲ USB Router

Considering a last-ditch effort to make your summer memorable? While you're at it, stay connected on the road with this petite yet powerful USB dongle from D-Link. The handy DWR-710 Le Petit router is both a 3G modem and a Wi-Fi router fitted in a single flash drive form factor. This tiny device is armed with the Evolved High Speed Uplink Packet Access (HSPA+) technology giving it download and upload speeds of up to 21Mbps and 11.4Mbps, respectively. Simply slip your 3G SIM into the device and plug it into any USB port whether on your laptop, USB adapters, and even portable batteries, and you're good to surf all you want while sharing your internet connection with up to seven devices. It also has a microSD slot, supporting cards up to 32GB, making it function like a traditional thumb drive for extra data storage.

PHP 1,850



Asus ZenFone Selfie ▲ Smartphone

If you're all about taking vanity shots wherever, whenever, then this is the perfect phone for you. Featuring main and secondary 13MP PixelMaster cameras with an 88-degree, f/2.2 lens up front; and dual-color dual LED Real Tone flash, f/2.0 lens, and laser auto-focus technology at the back, the ZenFone Selfie is able to capture high-quality snaps no matter which way you hold it. Display duties are handled by a 5.5-inch Gorilla Glass 4-protected IPS screen with a full HD resolution, and performance is tackled by a 64-bit octa-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 615 processor. Those specs will surely perk up that selfie smile even more.



◀ Asus ZenPower Powerbank

Going to be out for the whole day? Why not bring the Asus ZenPower with you. This power-packed credit card-sized device packs a mean punch with 10050mAh of power on standby, ready for when your device starts to tank. It offers high-speed, high-efficiency charging with up to 2.4A, and Asus' PowerSafe Technology which monitors temperature, controls both input and output voltages, and guards your device against short circuits. The ZenPower is designed with an anodized aluminum case making it a device you're going to want to show off. You can even add an extra layer of toughness onto your device with the ZenPower Bumper for keeping it pristine despite bumps and falls. Available in silver, gold, hot pink, and blue.

PHP 795 (available through Lazada)



Nikon COOLPIX S6900 ▲

Digital Camera

Joining the race for the best and most stylish selfie gadget is Nikon's COOLPIX S6900! This slim digital camera is equipped with brand new features that allow users a more enjoyable and creative experience while taking self-portraits, or getting in close, with 12x optical zoom and a 16MP sensor. Its vari-angled LCD monitor can flip all the way to support shooting from a variety of angles, and its built-in camera stand secures the camera to your ideal position. When you and your friends have found your best angles, conveniently press the front shutter-release button—or use the Gesture Control feature which uses the palm of your hand as a remote control—to capture the moment. This camera also offers other superior operational functions such as the Glamour mode, which allows users to preview effects in the display during shooting, and its built-in Wi-Fi and Near Field Communication technology (NFC), which gives users exceptional sharing experience both online and offline.



Epson L850 Genuine Ink Tank System ▲

Photo Printer

The Epson L850 is a device that photography enthusiasts and professionals will find useful with its 6-color ink tank system. This 3-in-1 photo printer delivers vibrant borderless prints and unrivalled performance at a remarkably low cost. From easy and direct CD/DVD surface printing to its vibrant 2.7-inch color LCD display, this is the go-to printer for all your imaging needs. With its expanded color gamut of 6 inks and a resolution of 5760 dpi, the Epson L850 is an ultra-high capacity ink tank system that delivers the highest quality in photo printing.

PHP 18,725



Asus Zen AiO Series ▲

All-in-One PC

High-end PC specs don't usually go with a slim footprint. Usually, You'd have to look really hard for a powerful, premium machine with a dainty exterior fit for the minimalist desktop. Existing on the fringes of all-in-one PCs are the Asus Zen AiO units. Don't be fooled by the 6mm thin edges. These elegant, anodized-aluminum, unibody computers utilize the latest Intel Core processors, up to 32GB of DDR4 RAM, up to 4 SSDs, and a dedicated Nvidia GeForce GTX 960M graphics card with 4GB of VRAM; enough specs to put most all-in-ones on suicide watch. Other features such as Intel's RealSense motion sensing technology and six speakers with a total 16-watt output wrap up this decisively beastly PC.



◀ I Am Cardboard Kit

Virtual reality is going to be big. The processing power of smartphones, the abundance of creation tools, and the huge pool of talent all over the web practically guarantee it. What's really interesting though is that the virtual reality trend is going to be brought to the masses by a simple cardboard box. The I Am Cardboard kit comes with everything you need for an immersive VR experience, sans the smartphone. With a cool box, easy do-it-yourself instructions, and the ability to hold phones with screen sizes up to six inches, plus compatibility with both iOS and Android, you can start enjoying the future in the time it takes to unpack and assemble, or about ten minutes. The future is here, and it's made of cardboard.



◀ California Eco Bike Hensley Personal Transporter

Getting around the city can be a pain. Sometimes, things are just a little too far to walk, but too near to drive. This might just be the most interesting solution in the market today. The California Eco Bike Hensley is a battery-powered, economical, and fun way to scoot around the city. This electric unicycle gives you a range of 20KM, at up to 15KPH. With a maximum load of 110 KG and a reliable, brushless motor, this is going with you for the long haul. Just plug it in for a four-hour charge, and you'll be all set! Get around the city with ease. Get the California Eco Bike Hensley.

PHP 10,800

Sony Bravia 4K TVs ▼ Smart HD TVs

Sony's new 4K and Full HD TVs are a big leap in sound and home entertainment technology with its immersive and high-resolution cinematic experience for customers. You would never want to leave home again with these new Bravia 4K models that range from 43 to glorious 75 inches. The new televisions (All 4K models: X9400C, X9000C, X8500C, X8300C and Full HD series: W800C) support Google's latest Android TV operating system 5.0, allowing users access to thousands of videos, games, enhanced features for a full interactive Android experience. Taking the cinematic experience on to a new level is Sony's 4K X1 image processor that provides advanced clarity, color accuracy, and contrast, giving users the best picture quality there possible, as well as allowing the TV to upscale non-4K content. This technology is combined with the X-tended Dynamic Range PRO that utilizes a full array of local dimming that produces contrast beyond comparison. The X9000C is housed with an Ultra Slim Design while the X9400C comes in a smartphone-slim 4.9mm form factor. The X9400C, on the other hand is made compatible with High-Resolution Audio playback as a standalone TV.

The W800C and W700C series reduce unwanted picture noise with its X-Reality PRO technology, ensuring high quality graphics and produces high quality and clear sound with the ClearAudio+ technology for a better cinematic experience. Sony customers will be able to maximize their use of home space with the W's super slim design ranging from 32 up to 65 inches.



Canon EOS 5DS ▶

DSLR

Though we'll say in this month's Snapshots section that megapixels don't matter as much as you think, there is a place for it when the rest of your hardware is solid. How many MPs does Canon's newest snapper have, you ask? 50.6MP. That's not a typo. On board this 845g (body only) beast is a 50.6MP, 35mm full-frame sensor with dual DIGIC 6 image processors that's able to capture super high resolution pictures you can zoom into and crop to your heart's content. It has a Low-Pass Filter to remove any unwanted image distortion, as well as a new vibration control system and Release Time Lag Arbitrary setting to reduce camera shake-induced blur. For the 5DS, it really is go big or go home.

PHP 158,998 (body only)



◀ Canon EOS 5DS R

DSLR

For the photographer who needs a little something more than a 50.6MP, 35mm full-frame sensor, the 5DS R bears additional features not seen on its twin. While it shares the sensor size, megapixel count, image processor, 50 to 12800 ISO speed setting, 5fps continuous shooting, full HD 30p, 61-point Phase Difference AF, and 3.2-inch LCD screen of its sibling, the 5DS R has the improved Optical Low Pass Filter cancellation tech that reduces the moiré effect for sharper, detail-rich images. Whether you're a budding snapper who wants a shooter to last for the better part of a lifetime, or a veteran professional with the keenest of eyes, the 5DS R will impress you with every click of the shutter.

PHP 167,998 (body only)



Nyne Aqua ▲ Bluetooth Speaker

What could be better than a portable, waterproof Bluetooth speaker? A portable speaker you can dunk in the water and watch float, that's what! The Nyne Aqua puts a spin to the idea of taking your music anywhere with its watertight design. Listen to music while doing daily laps in the pool, taking a shower, or drifting down a lazy river with the Aqua. The Aqua features an IPX-7 waterproof rating and silicon carrying band, which keeps the speaker true to its name. It comes with a 2200mAh battery giving you up to 10 hours of non-stop playback, and four equalizer settings you can tinker with to satisfy the music enthusiast in you. What's more, this Bluetooth speaker comes with a built-in microphone so you can take calls while enjoying the cool waters.



◀ Nyne Bass Bluetooth Speaker

Touted as an outdoor performer, the Bass is the speaker of choice for chilling by the beach, camping, or even motoring trail runs. It comes equipped with 20 watts of output power—giving powerful, deep lows—encased in a form factor with a tough, rubberized finish. This Bluetooth speaker can connect to devices up to a distance of 33 feet and is powered by a whopping 4400mAh rechargeable battery which you can also share with another device via a USB port. Apart from these features, it also comes with a carrying handle, built-in microphone, AC adapter with 4 worldwide plugs, 3.5mm auxiliary input, and NFC support, all of which raise any outdoor gathering to a whole new level of fun.

Nyne Cruiser ▶

Bluetooth Speaker

Bring your music with you even when you're on the move with the Nyne Cruiser. This rugged, portable Bluetooth speaker comes with an adjustable universal handlebar mounting clip so you can ride your bike and get pumped whilst still hearing ambient noises, keeping you alert on the road. After an exhilarating bike ride, you can then use a carabiner to clip this rugged speaker onto your backpack and take a hike. Designed with a two-tone rubberized finish, it is aesthetically pleasing and at the same time repels spills or raindrops. The versatile Cruiser also features a rechargeable battery that promises up to 10 hours of non-stop playback, NFC technology, a built-in noise cancelling microphone, and Bluetooth connectivity up to 33 feet. Similar to its siblings, the Cruiser also has a USB port which allows you to charge your mobiles. If you are on the move, the Cruiser is just the speaker you need!



◀ Nyne TT Bluetooth Speaker

The Nyne TT was designed with the travel-junkie professional in mind. Packed in a rubberized, compact form, this portable speaker is perfect for taking with you just about everywhere, as it can be easily stashed in your luggage. It produces 16 watts of power and promises up to 10 hours of playback with its 2200mAh battery that also doubles as a powerbank for quick charges. Rid yourself of tangled wires with the Nyne TT's Bluetooth 4.0 and NFC touch-connect technologies. Paying homage to the venerable 80's icon, the boombox, the TT comes with a trendy black shoulder bag—with perforations and dents for the control buttons—for transporting it while listening to your favorite music without obstructions.



Focal Dimension ▲ Soundbar

If that hunk of screen you call your television can provide the necessary eye-candy for immersive visuals but can't back it up with engrossing audio, then you better supplement it with the Dimension soundbar from Focal. This ultra-thin speaker can be mounted to a wall or media cabinet and is built from aluminum ensuring exceptional rigidity and vibration-resistance. It booms 5.1ch surround sound placing you right in the middle of the action while still ensuring optimal and clear notes. You'll no longer have to crane your neck and stretch your ears just to catch that epic one-liner from your favorite movie.



◀ Lenovo S60 Smartphone

Stylish phone without the price premium? Yes please. The ultra-thin, ultra-light Lenovo S60 clocks in at 7.7mm and 128g making it much more manageable than mainstream bricks. Inside its svelte body is a 1.2GHz Qualcomm Snapdragon processor, 2GB of RAM, 8GB of expandable storage, and 13MP main and 5MP secondary snappers for performance that won't leave you hanging even when you're painting the town red. This 5.0-inch HD IPS-equipped device is also LTE-enabled so you're never devoid of blazing fast data speeds. The S60 is available in bright colors of pearl white, graphite grey, and laser yellow.

PHP 9,999

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COMING SOON IN THE PHILIPPINES



◀ Hisy Bluetooth Shutter Wireless Mouse

Tired of holding your phone while trying to get the perfect angle for a selfie? Do you go back and forth just to review where you positioned your phone for the perfect group picture? Worry no more! The HISY Bluetooth camera remote lets you capture every moment hassle-free. With the Bluetooth shutter, you can now place your phone anywhere you want without rushing back to the group before the timer snaps a shot. Just connect your HISY Bluetooth camera remote to your iOS device and start taking shots. It is compatible with Apple devices running iOS 7.0 from the iPhone 4s onwards. Weighing 0.1lbs and with 3.5x1x7.5 dimensions, you can definitely bring it anywhere. It is available in black and white, exclusively at A Shop outlets.

PHP 1,790

CD-R King Smart Plug▶ Power Bank

Every day our tools get smarter and smarter, so it stands to reason that getting home appliances to keep up is the next logical step. While TVs, fridges, and other large pieces of home hardware are learning to jump on to the smart trend, CD-R King gives us the ability to make everything else just a little more clever with the Smart Plug. The Smart Plug is a device that plugs in between the wall outlet and home appliance, and lets you remotely control the power from wherever you are, right from your smartphone. It has eight timing tasks, so you can ensure it works right when you need it to, and comes with a smartphone application (iOS and Android) for finer control. It even lets you monitor power usage, and functions as a wireless repeater to cover dead spots in your home.

PHP 1,280



OWN THE ROAD WITH A NEW SUZUKI BIKE
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LG G4

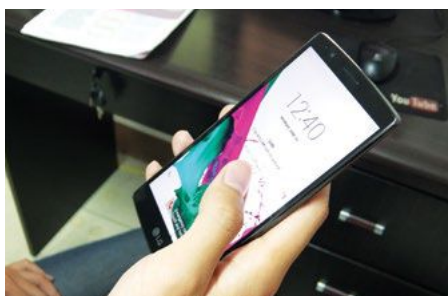
Reviewed by Maribelle Alba

I have to confess that I was so taken with the LG G2, it was the one phone that persuaded me to give Android a try. I skipped the LG G3, but couldn't resist "investing" in my very own red leather-backed LG G4.

DESIGN ★★★★★

Retaining its signature back button placement, the LG G4 has, in my opinion, evolved into a distinctive accessory with the new leather back option. At a time when smartphones are starting to look like clones of each other, the G4 stands out in a quietly classy way. The attractive leather back is definitely not something you'd want to hide under a cover and, since it's removable, swapping it out with a replacement should take care of stains or eventual wear and tear.

The G4's 5.5-inch display is exactly the same size as that of the iPhone 6 Plus, but LG has managed to make the G4 body some millimeters shorter and narrower.



SPECIFICATIONS:

Processor: Qualcomm MSM8992 Snapdragon 808; dual-core 1.8GHz Cortex A-57 and quad-core 1.44GHz Cortex A-53; Adreno 418
Operating System: Android 5.1 Lollipop
Frequency: 2G/3G/LTE (4G)
Display: 5.5-inch IPS LCD capacitive touchscreen; 1440x2560; Corning Gorilla Glass 3
Memory: 3GB RAM, 32GB storage + microSD slot
Connectivity: Dual-SIM (Philippine variant); Bluetooth 4.1; USB 2.0; Wi-Fi 802.11 a/b/g/n/ac
Cameras: Primary – 16MP F1.8 LDAF + OIS 2.0; 8MP F2.0 selfie camera
Dimensions: 148.9x76.1x9.5mm
Weight: 155g
Battery: 3000mAh Li-ion removable

What's Hot:

- Feature rich camera—both hardware and software
- Vibrant screen
- Classy, elegant leather back
- Large 5.5-inch screen in a svelte body

What's Not:

- Premium-priced
- Some overheating and battery drain issues especially when using navigation



And while it is actually a wee bit thicker than the latter, its clever slim arc design gives the G4 a svelte look with thin edges curving up in the convex back.

This curve, as well as the leather material, makes the G4 fit nicely in the hand and easier to handle.

HARDWARE ★★★★★

For this flagship device, LG settled on a Qualcomm Snapdragon 808 chipset which to some seems a bit of a let-down as there is a newer 810 processor available. From a user perspective, though, the 808 is premium enough, supporting LTE data speeds, 3D gaming graphics, 4K video streaming, and power efficient battery usage.

The two things that stand out for me are the G4's IPS quantum display screen and its laser auto-focus camera. LG claims that the IPS quantum display is the first of its kind, with a resolution of 2560x1440-pixels, 538ppi, for brighter images with higher contrast ratio and more life-like colors. Paired with In-Cell Touch Display technology, the screen is also more responsive. Assured of Corning Gorilla Glass 3 protection, I bravely decided to remove the screen protector the unit shipped with, to better enjoy the display's smooth feel and vibrant graphics.

Building on one of the strengths of its predecessor, the G4 packs major improvements in its 16MP main camera with f/1.8 lens and 1/2.6-inch image sensor for almost DSLR-quality photos. Beside the rear camera are the LED flash, the color spectrum sensor, and the laser auto-focus. The infrared-sensitive color spectrum analyzer measures all visible light in a scene to ensure natural and vibrant colors even in low-light conditions.

The Philippine version apparently has dual micro-SIM slots (I bought my G4 in Singapore, so my unit takes a single micro-SIM). For those who need more than the stock 32GB phone memory, there is an expansion micro-SD slot that can take up to 128GB. LG has also thrown in 100GB of cloud storage on Google Drive, free for two years. The removable battery is a 3000mAh lithium ion power pack.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

If anything, LG seems to have taken the "less is more" axiom to heart, and I find the LG skin atop Android 5.1 Lollipop to be a pleasant addition, not



at all useless bloatware. LG has thoughtfully put together its apps in Smart Bulletin, a dedicated home screen page containing widgets for the health fitness tracker, calendar events pocket, music player, smart settings, IR remote, and smart tips.

I opted to do a fresh install instead of restoring from a backup—this posed absolutely no problems as I was able to download and install my apps in a matter of minutes. Data connectivity, whether via 4G/LTE or Wi-Fi, was speedy and seamless.

Driving to/from the office, I would have Waze running simultaneously with Spotify playing my music (in offline mode), and the G4 gamely handled the multi-tasking without a hitch. I noticed, though, that the phone would get quite warm during the drives, with the battery draining down rapidly. I did a factory reset and this seems to have solved the problem.

Again, the camera deserves special mention. In addition to awesome hardware specs, it is easy to take great photos with the camera which has optical image stabilization. Manual mode gives you control over settings such as white balance, exposure bracketing, ISO, shutter speed, and aperture, among others. For post-processing, you can save your images in both RAW and JPG.

VALUE ★★★★★

Price-wise, the LG G4 is, as expected, at the high end of the smartphone range alongside similar flagship devices. For this segment, the leather-back is a definite selling proposition, giving the G4 a classic look that will make this a lasting investment.

If you consider that you get almost-DSLR camera features in the G4, you can also justify the expense as you don't have to shell out additional cash on a separate camera purchase.

BOTTOMLINE

The LG G4 is both a great looker and a great performer. If you want an Android smartphone that stands out, this is the one for you.



Nyne Cruiser

Reviewed by Mia Carisse Barrientos



Today, many speakers are made for people who are always on-the-go. But do people actually have time to take the speaker out and listen to music while they move about? Probably not. The reality is, it is left in the bag, more often than not, unutilized. Nyne is looking to change the game with the Cruiser.

DESIGN ★★★★★

Convenience and travelling options aren't usually of primary concern when looking to purchase a new speaker. For many, as long as it delivers in the audio department, little else matters. But, throw in several portability options and you'd get a deal that's truly got bang for the buck. That's what Nyne aims to accomplish with its speaker lineup that's meant for the outdoors. The unit sent over to us was the compact Cruiser.

The Cruiser came in a nice, if large package. Inside, there are the speakers, and another box that contains accessories including a bag with carabiner, cables, and set of clips to hold the speaker in place on the handlebars of a bike or a stroller.

While the Cruiser is compact, it is quite chunky for something that presents itself as a portable speaker. However, it is appealing and small enough to carry around with ease. The eye-shaped speaker unit we got came in a black base, broken up with splashes of solid blue. Wrapped on its surfaces is a rubberized matte coating that is nice to touch and an aluminum grille. On the bottom are dents for the clips and four rubber stoppers that will keep the device from slipping when placed on smooth surfaces.

HARDWARE ★★★★★

Unlike other Bluetooth speakers that offer minimal to no physical buttons, the Cruiser presents something a little bit different to what we may be used to. There are buttons aplenty on this speaker, making it fairly easy to manipulate. The control buttons sit nicely, in a vertical manner, on the right side of the Cruiser's face. There you have a play/pause, volume, call, track-backward and -forward buttons at your disposal. On its back are the charging port, LED indicator, off/on toggle button, a 3.5mm auxiliary input, and a 5V, 1A USB port. It comes with a 2200mAh battery that promises eight to 10 hours of use, which you can utilize to charge other devices. In case you forget to turn it off, it will conveniently shut itself off after 30 minutes of inactivity to preserve battery life.

Inside, the unit features 10 watts of power through a pair of drivers. It also makes use of a passive radiator to better give you a deeper bass sound. Apart from its capable sound acoustics, it offers Bluetooth and NFC pairing options.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

The Cruiser's portability options are welcome for such a great speaker. Using it on the move is quite easy. You can slip it in its neoprene case, clip the carabiner onto your bag, and play music on the go. The case, which comes free in the package, has tiny perforations and dents with silver print to indicate its control scheme for music listening while you move about. The case isn't all that perfect, though, as I had a hard time slipping the speaker in; it was very snug. If you don't intend to keep removing and returning it, then there should be no problem.

The clamping system for attaching the speaker to handlebars or other cylindrical objects came in the form of two universal clips that easily snap into the bottom of the Cruiser. The opening on the clips can then be clamped firmly onto any cylindrical surface. In use, its clamping system worked wonders. Since I am no biker, I tested clamping it on the wobbly guard on the side of my bed and shook it violently. It came as no surprise that the speaker didn't budge thanks to its tight grip system. It seems like it would be able to handle duty on two wheels just fine.

If you know how to connect and pair Bluetooth 4.0 and NFC capable devices, you are well on your way. To help you, blue and purple indicator lights inside the aluminum grille will keep you notified of the Cruiser's connection status. Keep in mind to not stay 30 feet away from the device connected to the speaker as music or whatever you are using it for will get cut.

Moving on to performance, the Cruiser without a doubt is a mighty speaker. It offers a great range of sound that remains rich and crisp regardless of the volume. If you favor bass in your music, know that the Cruiser does the same. High notes are sharp as it should be and mids are clean. In a nutshell, the

overall sound is loud enough for outdoor listening, but also isn't too overpowering for indoor use.

VALUE ★★★★★

The Nyne Cruiser, which comes in four different color combinations with basic colors in black, white, and gray, is a compact speaker that gives you great sound. Its portability options are pleasing additions to its sound quality. Take that away and you still have a capable, portable speaker to work with whenever you just feel like jamming to good music.

BOTTOMLINE

What makes the Cruiser special? Small form factor, pleasing sounds, and mounting options. Need we say more?



SPECIFICATIONS:

- Connectivity: Bluetooth 4.0 and NFC
- Battery Capacity: 2200mAh
- Functionality: Hands-free calling, One Touch Personal Phone Assistance Activation
- Sound: 2.0 Stereo Channel Output + Passive Radiator

What's Hot:

- Convenient travel options
- Loud sound output

What's Not:

- A tad chunky for everyday transport



Asus Zenfone 2 (ZE551ML)

Reviewed by Mika Fernandez-David

After its successful SEA and Philippine launches, we finally got hold of our own Zenfone 2. If you're in the market for a new phone, you might want to read on.

DESIGN ★★★★★

Box contents include the phone, the manual and warranty cards, headphones and its rubber plugs, the USB cord, and the slightly larger 18W BoostMaster charger that comes with each 2.3GHz/4GB ZenFone 2 package.

The phone feels solid, with just the right heft to make it feel like a "serious" phone. Its back is curved enough to be cradled nicely in one's hand, yet miraculously keeps its balance when placed on a surface, facing up.

In front, the 5.5-inch full HD IPS display is topped with sturdy Corning Gorilla Glass 3. Located on top is the usual speaker, and beside it is the 5MP, f/2.0, wide-angle front camera. Below the display are the permanent Android navigation buttons. The power button, as well as the 3.5mm audio socket, are located on top of the device, while the microUSB port can be found at the bottom. The sides of the device are clean, as the volume rocker is located at the back, right below the dual LED real tone flash and 13MP camera. The plastic back plate has a brushed aluminum finish giving it a premium feel, although it fits pretty snugly and is a bit tricky to remove. I actually scratched the sides of the groove a bit just by using my nails while trying to pry the panel open. Inside, you will find the two microSIM slots, the microSD card slot, and buried somewhere underneath is the 3000mAh non-removable battery.

HARDWARE ★★★★★

The 5.5-inch screen and HD resolution makes it big enough to be useful for working on documents or simple graphic work on-the-go without straining your eyes (that much). As with other devices, screen brightness can be adjusted manually, or can be set to auto-mode which adjusts to ambient lighting. Color display comes with a sub menu where you can adjust temperature, find presets for balance, reading, vivid screen color modes, as well as a customized option which allows you to adjust hue and saturation to your liking.

The phone comes pre-loaded with quite a number of apps—some useful, some less so—and requires a bit of updating when you're using it for the first time. I ran the Antutu Benchmark test several times, and

results ranged from just below the Samsung Galaxy Note 4 at 45,653, to a low of 37,609, which is still above the Nexus 5 and the last-gen LG flagship G3. I didn't have any problems with my usual apps crashing after I successfully updated the OS and apps. The 4GB RAM - octa core combo might sound like overkill to some, but with apps needing more and more juice these days, I would rather underutilize my device's capabilities, than suffer from having an underpowered one. It practically has more RAM than any other phone currently in the market, and that kinda guarantees that it's going to be in the game much longer.

The Zenfone 2 comes with Asus' proprietary BoostMaster Technology that can charge the device at double the speed. I don't think I need to explain why zero to 60-percent in 39 minutes can be a lifesaver. With normal use and a Wi-Fi connection, the battery lasts a whole day, but expect that to decrease dramatically if you are using cellular data, and more so if you use it as a hotspot (that's when the 10050mAh ZenPower powerbank comes in handy, but that's another review).

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

The ZenPhone 2 is a snappy device. Although I really don't use my phone to play RAM intensive games, it had no problem dealing with multiple apps open.

Being dual-SIM capable, I only needed to bring one device for both my personal and office-issued lines, as well as my on-the-go photography needs.

I took the device with me on a photowalk at a nearby Sunday market and was quite impressed with the results. I can't say that the shutter is the fastest out there, but if you take time to properly compose and frame your shots, you won't be disappointed with the output. I shot in automatic, with all the default settings, because admit it, how often do you really use anything more than that, right? Manual setting is, however, available for when you need it, together with an assortment of settings optimized for different lighting conditions and preferred special effects.

VALUE ★★★★★

The ZE551ML variants of the Zenfone 2 are priced at PHP 9,995 for 16GB, PHP 13,995 for 32 GB, and PHP 14,995 for the 64 GB variant. For just a thousand

or two more, I would save up for the highest capacity model offering the best value.



SPECIFICATIONS:

Processor: 64-bit Intel Atom 2.3GHz Z3580 quad-core processor
Memory: 4GB RAM; 32GB of storage, with 5GB free lifetime ASUS Web Storage; External expandable up to 64GB via microSD
Display: 5.5-inch full HD IPS display with Gorilla Glass 3, 1920 x 1080 resolution
Cameras: 13 MP rear camera, Auto Focus, PixelMaster; 5 MP front camera, Fix Focus, Wide View, PixelMaster
Dimensions: 77.2 x 152.5 x 7.2 x 3.9 ~ 10.9mm (WxDxH)
Weight: 170g
Connectivity: Dual-SIM (Micro-SIM, dual standby, dual call) 3G, LTE; Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, GPS, A-GPS, NFC
Operating System: Android 5.0 Lollipop with ZenUI
Battery: 3000mAh battery (non-removable)

What's Hot:

- 4GB RAM
- Attractive pricing

What's Not:

- Not the fastest shutter but still very usable
- No accessories available (YET)

BOTTOMLINE

If you are looking for a truly usable daily driver but don't want to break bank, the Zenfone 2 might be the one for you.

SanDisk iXpand



Reviewed by Chris Noel Hidalgo

Yes, I concede; the iPhones and iPads are indeed great devices. However, they have one glaring chink in their armor—the lack of expandable storage. SanDisk is looking to remedy that with the iXpand thumbdrive, a simple-looking dual flash drive with USB 2.0 and Lightning interfaces. We find out if getting SanDisk's Apple memory solution is better than begging the fruit company to create devices with microSD slots.

DESIGN ★★★★★

The iXpand is basically a wide, flattened USB thumbdrive measuring 64.17 x 36.78 x 11.80mm, making it easy to carry around in your bag or pocket. Its body is forged out of aluminum and is finished in black and silver making it as premium as the devices it is designed to accompany. Etched on its front, back, and top cap is the SanDisk and iXpand marques. Unlike other dual flash drives, the iXpand doesn't have its USB 2.0 and Lightning connectors on either end. Rather, the USB 2.0 jack sits at the top snugly protected by a cap, and the Lightning cable sits below it in a groove. Don't rip it all the way through though as only $\frac{3}{4}$ of it lifts off the body. Yes, I've tried forcing it but it's too well put together. Overall, it looks very nice and is a far cry from the plastic-y stride of most USB OTG drives.

HARDWARE ★★★★★

Because current-generation iPhones and iPads don't support the USB 3.0 interface, the iXpand's PC connector is the older 2.0 kind (the 2000s called, it wants its standard back!). On the other end, you have the Lightning connector which is not compatible with older devices strutting the 30-pin dock connector.

The sheer width of the device can be blamed on the built-in battery, a necessary add-on because the Lightning port can't provide enough juice to power the iXpand. You'll need to plug it in to a USB port every now and then to keep the battery topped up and ready for use. The device has an LED light on its right side which glows red when the thumbdrive needs charging.

The iXpand also comes in various storage sizes, from 16GB to 128GB, so you can get the variant that fits your needs and budget.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

Though Apple's camera and Retina display pretty much guarantee itchy trigger fingers and binge watching of TV series and movies, the iDevices (still) do not ship with a microSD card slot. That's where the iXpand comes in.

Our review unit was the 32GB variant charged out of the box so it was just a plug and play affair. Upon first use, you'll get a prompt telling you to download the accompanying iXpand Sync app, an easy-to-use file manager with a couple of features including media playback, automatic camera sync, contact backup, and file security.

Syncing was straightforward, with the app asking if you want to delete files that are already backed up so your device isn't bogged down. File transfer speeds between the iXpand and iPad mini were decent enough for relatively small files, while PC and iXpand comms reaped below average USB 2.0 speeds.

For those with a habit of misplacing their stuff, the iXpand comes with SanDisk's Secure Access software so you can safely encrypt your files. It's simple enough to use, only requiring a password for a locked folder containing the sensitive data you'd prefer to remain private.

Though the OTG functions were straightforward enough, the app needs quite a lot of polishing. I experienced niggling crashes, as well as slow touch response when viewing and loading larger-than-average multimedia files. My other gripe is that the drive only supports the FAT32 file system, meaning it won't be able to store individual files larger than 4GB. Formatting the iXpand to another file system such as NTFS immediately demoted it to a regular thumbdrive, with the iPad mini not recognizing it as a storage device.

VALUE ★★★★★

Through its flaws, the SanDisk iXpand stands tall as one of the few plug and play storage devices for Apple's mobile lineup. Syncing files was simple and took only a few taps, as was encrypting them. And the app crashes? Future updates will likely take care of any hiccups in that department. Overall, if you're sick of having to run to a computer just to free up some space on your iPhone or iPad, the iXpand thumbdrive will save you from your memory woes.



SPECIFICATIONS:

Interface: Lightning and USB 2.0 connectors (one connector used at a time)
Storage size: 16GB, 32GB, 64GB, and 128GB
Mobile device compatibility: iPhone and iPad with Lightning connector and iOS 7.1 and higher
PC/Mac computer compatibility: Windows Vista, Windows 7, Windows 8, Mac OS X v10.6 and higher
Supported video formats: WMV, AVI, MKV, MP4, MOV
Battery: 3.7V Li-ion, pre-charged, ready to use
Operational Temperature: 0 to 60-degrees Celsius
Dimensions: 64.17 x 36.78 x 11.80mm (H x W x D)

What's Hot:

- Looks classy
- Flexible lightning connector

What's Not:

- Individual file size limited to 4GB
- App crashes every now and then

BOTTOMLINE

Who says Apple users can't have expandable memory?



Mi Pad

Reviewed by Ren Alcantara



Tablets are as much a part of our lives as smartphones were just a few short years ago. A phone is a great little device for the occasional email, message, or quick bit of news, but if you want to watch a movie with any degree of comfort, read an eBook without wanting to gouge out your eyes, or maybe even get some actual work done, a tablet can't be beat. Mi is following up on their extremely successful devices with what might just be another winner: The MiPad.

DESIGN ★★★★★☆

The MiPad has a design that is completely in line with their existing devices. A square-ish screen, framed by a deep black bezel that's pleasantly thin, and a plain white back makes for a device that is beautiful in its uncluttered simplicity. The home, back, and multitasking functions are accessed via capacitive, backlit buttons that disappear after a set time, so the only hard keys on the device are the volume rocker and power button, both located on the right edge of the pad. The top edge houses the 3.5mm headphone jack, with a notification light just below it, on the face of the tablet, while the bottom is home to the microUSB port for charging and sync. The back is plain save for a camera, the Mi logo, and speaker grilles, and is a nice plain white in our review model.

It's a little wide, so single-handed use is not advisable, though two-handed use should only pose a problem to those with the smallest hands. The weight is pleasant: just enough to convey a solid feel, but not so much as to be a burden to handle or carry.

HARDWARE ★★★★★☆

The MiPad follows the trend of Mi devices that offer amazing performance. This tablet has a massive 7.9-inch screen, with a resolution of 1536x2048 pixels. This gives a sharp pixel density of about 324ppi, which is plenty sharp, and won't distract you with jagged edges, or really, even visible pixels. The display, which is protected by Gorilla Glass 3, should be able to handle more than the occasional bump or drop without shattering, though I would advise trying to keep that from happening, as this is quite a hefty device. It's not overly heavy, weighing in at 360g, but it's got a bit of meat to it. At about eight inches tall, and over five inches wide, you're not going to just be throwing this into your pocket, but it should feel right at home in a small messenger bag or something similar.

Pushing the MiPad along is a quad-core 2.2GHz Cortex-A15 processor, with 2GB of RAM. For storage, you have 16 or 64GB of expandable space, and a ULP GeForce Kepler GPU. Imaging is a little light,

with an 8MP main camera, paired with a 5MP front cam, but as you're probably not going to use this as an imaging device, it really doesn't lose points in that department.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★☆

Having had a lot of experience with their other devices, I was expecting great things from the MiPad. The specs sheet further reinforced this, and I was ready to get blown away. The moment it powered up, I knew it had great things going for it. The display is large, bright, and sharp. From icons, to text, to images, it offered great visuals. Videos are great to watch on a large screen as on the MiPad, so it passed that test with flying colors.

Overall performance was equally impressive. MIUI V6 is a solid ROM. It's smooth, stable, and handles app switching and multitasking quite well. The device responds to taps, slides, and button presses quite quickly, and seems to handle budgeting memory efficiently. The 2GB of RAM and zippy processor make short work of daily tasks, and don't drop the ball even when a lot of apps are running. The whole experience with doing everyday things was pleasantly unremarkable, and just the way I like my technology.

Gaming was also quite solid. The games we tried, including *Asphalt 8*, *Dead Trigger 2*, and *Modern Combat 5* all performed flawlessly, even though the MiPad did nothing to improve our gaming skills. If you don't mind the bulk (or have the necessary hardware for peripherals) this would make an excellent gaming device.

My main problem with the device however, is that the back of the pad is quite slick. More than once, I almost lost it to gravity. Be warned, and get a case to avoid potential heartbreak.

VALUE ★★★★★☆

For a price that's just at the PHP11,000 mark, I can't complain about the value of the MiPad. It has great performance, simple good looks, and a great user experience. There aren't a lot of tablets that can give you that, and a good brand at this price point.



SPECIFICATIONS:

Size: 202.1x135.4x8.5mm
Weight: 260g
Display: 7.9-inches, 1080p IPS HD screen, Gorilla Glass 3
Processor: ARM Cortex-A15 Quad-core 2.2-GHz
CPU: NVIDIA Tegra K1
GPU: NVIDIA Kepler GPU, 192 CUDA Cores
RAM: 2GB
Storage: 16/64 Expandable
Connectivity: 802.11 a/b/g/n/ac, supports 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz bands, Bluetooth 4.0
Cameras: 8MP main, 5MP front
Battery: 6700mAh

What's Hot:

- Elegant design
- Impressive hardware
- Excellent performance

What's Not:

- Slick back case
- Essentially running Android KitKat

BOTTOMLINE

If you need a tablet, whether or not price is a concern, this is worth looking at.

Philips Sonicare Airfloss

Reviewed by Presy Alba

I take good care of my teeth and gums. I regularly floss because I know that it helps prevent plaque formation in between teeth, but it is such a chore. Then last year, a very bad toothache and a visit to my dentist made me realize that I wasn't flossing effectively.

When I tried the Philips Sonicare Airfloss, I discovered that not only did it take just a minute to floss my whole mouth, it worked more effectively and with more efficiency than manual flossing, and it actually made flossing fun.

DESIGN ★★★★★☆

The Philips Sonicare Airfloss unit comes in two parts: the handle and the nozzle. At first glance, you'll know that the Philips Sonicare Airfloss is a dental implement as it looks much like an electric toothbrush. The difference is that it has a little covered reservoir that holds about two teaspoons of water or mouthwash, and the upper part is a slim angled nozzle with a long neck that is designed to reach even the back teeth, with a small rubber tip at the end.

I like that the Airfloss design is compact enough to take along for travel. The detachable nozzle and handle can be easily added into my toiletries bag without causing any problems.

HARDWARE ★★★★★★

The Sonicare Airfloss set I got came with a multi-voltage charger, a handle, and two detachable nozzle tips plus a bonus tongue cleaner. The handle contains the rechargeable battery, which can last up to two weeks on a single full charge; the motor with the power button; the water reservoir with cover that can hold up to two teaspoons of water or mouthwash; and the activation button that triggers the quick burst of air and microdroplets. The end of the angled nozzle has a guidance tip that is designed to nestle comfortably between teeth and deliver the burst of air and microdroplets every time the activation button is pressed to gently remove what dentists call interproximal plaque biofilm.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★☆

Once fully charged, the Philips Sonicare Airfloss was very easy to use. Following instructions, I first added water into the receptacle, then powered up the Airfloss by pressing the power button at the base of the handle. With the nozzle attached, all I had to do was position the nozzle tip in between teeth and press the activation button to release a quick burst of air and microdroplets. I was surprised that the burst of air and water was powerful enough to dislodge and send flying any food particles that were stuck between the teeth.

What I really like about Airfloss is that it is fun and easy to use so flossing stopped being a boring, messy chore. I also like that I no longer have to contend with broken dental floss trapped between my teeth, and it only takes about a minute to complete the whole process.

Over the course of several days, I experimented with using just water and mouthwash. I settled on using my favorite no-alcohol mouthwash with the Airfloss to accomplish two things at the same time: airfloss and gargle, ending with a cleaner mouth and fresher breath.

As I mentioned earlier, the Airfloss travels well. What's more, on a full battery charge, I was able to use it once or twice each day during a five-day business trip without needing to use the charger. I also like that it manages power efficiently and turns power off every after four minutes, conserving the battery life just when you forget to turn the device off after use.

I have only one caveat when using the Airfloss: one has to be careful not to accidentally press the activation button when it is not properly positioned, and especially when outside the mouth because the Airfloss burst is quite powerful and may sting.

VALUE ★★★★★☆

At a little under PHP 4,000, the Airfloss is a bit steep as replacement for dental floss. But I found myself airflossing more often—I even found excuses to Airfloss after each meal. I think that if the fun experience and the more efficient and effective way it works will make you floss more regularly, resulting in an overall oral health improvement, the investment is worth it.

BOTTOMLINE

A truly effective and efficient interdental cleaning device.



SPECIFICATIONS:

Handle: Slim ergonomic design
Battery Indicator: Light in power blinks to indicate when to recharge
Power: Multi-voltage charger
Battery: Rechargeable Lithium Ion battery
Charging Time: 24 hours
Operating Time (full to empty): two weeks or 14 full-mouth uses

What's Hot:

- Cleans between the teeth more effectively and efficiently than regular dental floss
- Fun to use, hassle-free flossing (no more messy stringy dental floss)
- Can be used with your favorite mouthwash
- Rechargeable batteries can last up to two weeks on a single full charge
- Compact design and multi-voltage charger makes it travel-friendly
- Conserves battery by automatically turning off after four minutes

What's Not:

- Quite pricey
- Not for children. The powerful shot of air and microdroplets may cause harm and pain if device is not used properly

WD MY Cloud DL4100 16TB

Reviewed by Ren Alcantara

Storage is serious business. It's difficult to put a price on data, and having a place to keep lots of it with easy access is something many people would pay a premium for. WD has been making great hard drives as far back as I can remember, and they continue to give us that space we crave for, thanks to an excellent line of external, and network-attached drives. We were lucky enough to get our hands on a 16TB NAS for the office, so for those of you who just need more space, read on.



DESIGN ★★★★★

This NAS is very low-key. A simple black box, with vents for heat management is really all it looks to be. A closer inspection yields LAN ports at the back, along with USB ports for attaching other external drives. The front also has an extremely handy backlit display, so you can easily tell the network address, system status, and device name, without having to check the network page on your machine. If you're doing the setup and system maintenance yourself, this is a godsend.

It has a decidedly more industrial look than the Personal offerings from WD, which is actually pretty cool in my opinion. While it might not be in place



SPECIFICATIONS:

Capacity: 16TB, 4 WD Red NAS drives, 4 bays
Processor: 1.7GHz Intel Atom
RAM: 2GB
Interface: Gigabit Ethernet x 2, Power supply (DC in) x 2, USB 3.0 expansion port x1 rear, USB 2.0 expansion port x1 rear, USB 3.0 port with direct copy x1 front
File System: EXT4 for internal HDD, Support following formats for externally attached USB drives FAT/FAT32
NTFS (read and write capability)
HFS+J (case sensitive)
Linux EXT2, EXT3, EXT4

What's Hot:

- Huge storage
- Simple setup
- Easy control

What's Not:

- Might need a few extra skills for more advanced stuff

next to a slim and sexy TV, it looks all business, which is an appeal all on its own. Besides, with 16TB of storage, I'm not really one to complain.

Additional indicators for power, and each of the four HDD bays are present, so you can get a pretty good idea of what's going on with your NAS with a quick glance.

HARDWARE ★★★★★

The DL4100 has four 3.5-inch HDD bays, each hot-swappable, and tray-less. Just pop the thing open, swap out, and you're done. You also get USB 2.0 and 3.0 ports in the rear (one each), and another USB 3.0 port up front, with the ability for direct copy, should you need to migrate data quickly. Inside, you get four WD Red NAS HDDs for 16TB (!!) of storage, and a 1.7GHz Intel Atom processor to crunch the data. It also has 2GB of RAM. To connect it to the network, you have two Gigabit Ethernet ports.

The extremely helpful LCD screen on the front of the device can display two lines of text, and pertinent information on the state and status of the NAS.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

Networking things is not a strong suit of mine. I tend to get things working eventually, but it's hardly ever a pleasant experience. The DL4100 was exactly the opposite of past experience. Plug in the power, wait for it to boot, plug it into the router and wait a sec for it to appear on the network. Once it did, I could immediately access public storage. From there, it was a simple matter of assigning it a static IP, giving it a name everyone on the network could recognize, and letting everyone know where it was. The whole thing took all of maybe ten minutes, from the time I opened up the box, to when I first transferred data onto the drive.

The next step was to allow for remote access. After making an admin account, I was able to create individual user accounts for my workmates, for use with the WD app for both iOS and Android. The cloud-based solution mostly cuts out complicated permission and access settings, and vastly simplifies the process. I did run into a problem with our ISP's router settings, which required some

technician-level assistance, but that was by no fault of the device. Once those were gotten out of the way, everything performed smoothly.

The WD app allows access to files and folders on the NAS, as well as a private folder for each user, should the admin account provide them with one. Remote admin access is available as well, should you need to make some changes while away. Once everything is set up, the DL4100 allows you to have your own personal cloud, located at a place that's as secure as you make it.

One of my favorite features on the DL4100, apart from the copious storage space, is the presence of the display. Apart from the device IP and name, you also get info on fan status, drive space and status, uptime, system temperature, and Ethernet status. For more complicated notifications, the device can email you, or you can get alerts from the settings page, or the application. Nothing is going to get past you.

It also gives a lot of streaming support. UPnP, DLNA, XBOX, PS3, Windows 8, and smart TVs/Blu-Ray players all play nice with the DL4100, so it does both work and play. Streaming works just as advertised, and as long as your network is in good shape, it performs swimmingly. You may never have to plug an external HDD into your device ever again.

VALUE ★★★★★

The value of having access to data cannot be overrated. The fact that the DL4100 makes it so easy to store and access is just icing on the cake. If your business moves a lot of files around, or needs remote access, plus the ability to run RAID backups, swappable drives, and a little streaming on the side, the PHP65,999 of admission is totally worth it.

BOTTOMLINE

I'd get one myself if I needed all that space

WD introduces its Big 4

Words by Belle Alba

WD, one of the largest hard disk manufacturers in the world, has always been a top-of-mind brand in data storage. In recent years, it has introduced innovative storage products such as high-speed, high-capacity desktop drives, portable drives, personal cloud and network-attached storage, home entertainment drives, as well as business solutions.

Katerine Condes, WD country sales manager for content solutions, dropped by the Gadgets Magazine office one afternoon, and talked about the new "Big 4" drives targeted at prosumers and small-medium business enterprises.

Can you tell us about the new My Cloud Business and Expert series?

WD has always been a major supplier of internal drives, going as far back as the 1980s. However, we ventured into external drives only in the past ten years with products like the My Book and, later, the My Passport portable drives.

Two years ago we introduced the My Cloud series, a single bay NAS mainly for personal cloud storage, followed by the My Cloud EX2 and EX4 for the prosumer and SMB segments.

This year we are launching what we call the Big 4, consisting of the Expert Series and the Business series. In the Expert family we have the new EX2100 and EX4100. These are mainly targeted for smaller-scale data usage, for up to 10 end users.

The Business series consists of the DL2100 and the DL4100, suitable for 11-25 users.

How are these different from WD's previous drives or from competition?

The Big 4 have better specs, with improvements in memory, processor, and internet connectivity. Most 2-bay and 4-bay NAS have only 512MB of RAM; our Expert and Business series now have 1GB or 2GB upgradeable memory. This addresses the problem where even if you had 24TB capacity, you have slow transfer speeds because of the RAM.

We have also upgraded the processors with a 1.3GHz or 1.6GHz dual-core Marvell Armada for the EX-models, and 1.7GHz Intel Atom for the DL-models. The internet port is now 2GB as well. Of course, for remote access, any cloud service would still depend on your internet speeds. Another advantage for our NAS is that you can do a lot of RAID, which keeps your data secure even if one disk crashes or fails.

RAID is another technical concept that's not easily understood by ordinary users—can you tell us a bit more?

Normally you can have RAID if you have a 2-bay device. With RAID, your data on the first drive is mirrored on the second drive, so if the first drive fails or is corrupted, you still have a back-up copy.

Most people still think that saving or archiving their data is enough. With RAID, critical data

is always backed up and saved. Also, for WD devices, RAID is automatically configured so you don't need an IT person to do this for you. Our competitors don't offer the same easy-to-use one-click functionality.

What is your strategy to market these products?

The challenge really is innovation. For the My Cloud, I think we were the first to introduce it as a personal cloud storage. Previously, this was marketed as a NAS (network-accessed storage), but end-users think this is too technical and don't want to buy the product.

We try to make sure that our products are very end-user friendly, and you don't need an IT guy to set it up. Our My Cloud OS makes it very easy to set up and manage your cloud storage. We are also positioning these for remote access, where your files are centralized in one location that you can access from anywhere.

In the Philippines, the majority of SMBs have a lot of data but these are usually in different hard drives. We would like to be the first to provide a solution for centralized data storage, where important files are located in a single box to serve the entire work group. We believe there is a huge, untapped market for our Big 4.

Aren't you worried that with the introduction of these new cloud storage devices, you would be cannibalizing your other offerings?

Definitely not. WD is the only hard drive company that has a lot of products—we have more than 50 models. End users have different storage needs, like an accountancy student would have different backup need as compared to a media student.

Since the Big 4 are targeted at business users and prosumers, we don't think they would affect our other products that are designed for specific types of end-users. Also since these are not consumer products, we are working with corporate resellers to help us expand into this market segment.

For the Expert and Business series, we are offering not just casings and storage drives, we are also offering apps designed for specific industries. For example, for videographers or media companies, we have the Plex Media server to manage videos, images, and other media files.

What is the market price for the new My Cloud Expert and Business Series and the warranty period for both?

Pricing for the EX2100 starts at PHP 13,999 for



the unpopulated device, PHP 24,999 for 4TB, PHP 32,999 for 8TB, and PHP 41,699 for 12TB.

For the EX4100, the unpopulated NAS is priced at PHP 22,699. The 8TB is PHP 42,599; 16TB is PHP 59,999; and 24TB is PHP 81,999.

In the Business series, the DL2100 starts at PHP 19,999 (diskless); PHP 29,999 (4TB); PHP 36,599 (8TB); and PHP 48,699 (12TB).

The DL4100 sells for PHP 29,999 (diskless); PHP 47,999 (8TB); PHP 65,999 (16TB); and PHP 85,999 (24TB).

The warranty is two years on the diskless devices and 3 years on those with drives. We also have a special toll-free hotline exclusively for the Expert and Business product range.

These prices are quite steep. How do you foresee market acceptance?

Yes, these are not cheap products, but companies will have to make the investment in a reliable, trusted brand to protect their data. This is why we have several options, including unpopulated NAS to allow end-users to start out small and just scale up over time.

There are also cloud services being offered, some even free, but these are public clouds over which you don't have control—you don't know where your data is stored and how secure it is against hacking.

Company data is very valuable, much more than the price of the device, so getting your own secure, central cloud storage should be considered a good business investment.

WD is no. 1 in the global market. To what do you attribute its success?

I think it's the total package—R&D, marketing, the sales force. The one thing about WD is that we take a long time to test and develop products to ensure that they are easy to use and responsive to market needs.

Never leave Home again!

We've reached a point in time where it's possible to attend to our basic necessities without having to leave the house, and it's kind of exciting. Convenience has reached an all-time high; people are willing to pay a premium to have things delivered to their doorstep with just the flick of a finger.

Through technology, we are able to access the world from a single device. We can safely say that with the way technology is moving, it never wants you to leave home again. Join our girl next door, Willy Rodrigues, as she lounges around Aruga's cozy serviced apartments along with gizmos that are perfect for just staying in.



• Nyne Aqua •

Take your music with you even in the shower!



Photography by **Jay Tablante**, Canon Crusader of Light for EOS Digital
Art Direction by **Emmanuel Luz** and **Leng Desuasido**
Styling by **Leng Desuasido**
Assisted by **Jonah Mendoza**
Hair and Make up by **Boombee Bartolome**
Model: **Willy Rodrigues** of Ideal People Model Management
Shot on location: **Aruga by Rockwell**



• LG 105-inch Curved Super UHD TV •

Have a truly immersive viewing experience with ultra-sharp, lifelike images in the comfort of your living room with this UHD TV's gargantuan curved 105-inch screen and stunning virtual surround sound.



• Asus Zen AiO Series •

High-end PC specs fitted in a slim, premium machine? Yes, please!



The Girl Next Door

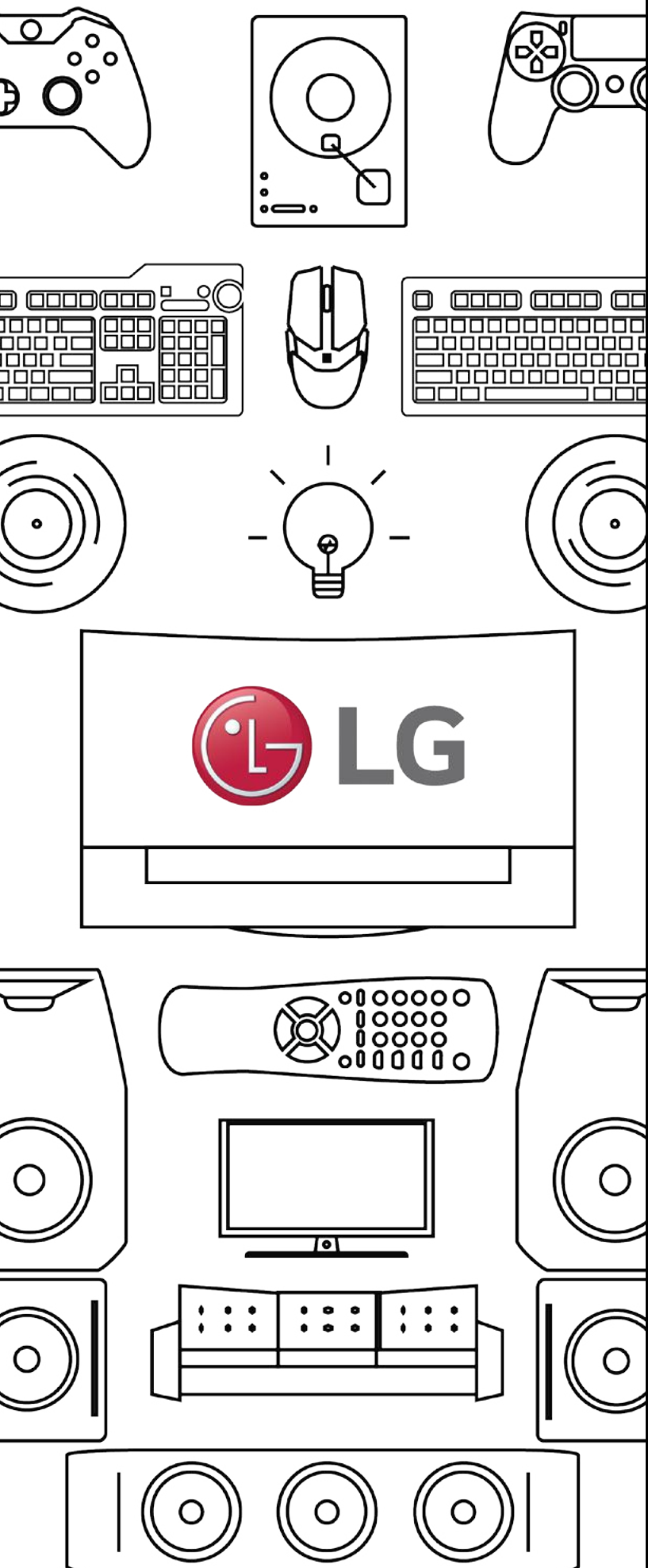
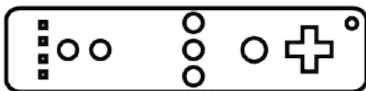
Interview by Chris Noel Hidalgo

For most people, having the fanciest cars, beds, TVs, speakers, and other expensive gadgets won't mean jack if they didn't have the perfect somebody to share it with. The setting for our shoot this month—a cozy two-bedroom suite in Aruga by Rockwell—had all the bells and whistles of an immaculate city escape save for a dame that will light up the room. Yes, even though the pad had the most amazing amenities, a breathtaking stunner wasn't included in the package.

Luckily, we managed to get in touch with Willyara Rodrigues, a 21 year old Brazilian knockout with a simple, wholesome beauty that's just perfect for Aruga's cozy serviced apartments. Perky and instantly likable, Willy (as she's commonly called) might as well be the girl next door you've always had a crush on yet were too chicken to ask out. After pleasantries, she quickly hopped on the makeup chair, blasted her tunes from her phone, and quickly delved into what we wanted her to achieve: a woman who'll make anyone not want to leave the house ever again.

Though Willy looks like the perfect homebody, she's actually quite active. Over the past two months, she's frequently flown back and forth between Brazil and the Philippines. All that time in the sky makes it hard for her to catch up on the latest films and television shows, so instead of these, she's often accompanied by her music playlist. Her queue is populated by sundry English, Spanish, and Brazilian songs; in fact, she was even rapping to Eminem and Rihanna's *Love the Way You Lie* while she was being dolled up!

Though her Philippine contract is about to expire, Willy said that she's open to extending her stay in the country, citing the people and food—she wanted fried chicken and rice from a popular fast food joint as her post-shoot meal—as two of the main factors behind her great time here. With that captivating smile and charming aura of hers, Willy's more than welcome to stay for as long as she wants.



Setting up your Home Entertainment System

Words by Team Gadgets | Art by Emmanuel Luz

There are few things quite as pleasant as grabbing a bucket of popcorn, some soda, and tickets to the last full show of this month's blockbuster. Until you have to deal with armrest territorial disputes. And sticky floors. And those noisy teenagers two rows back. And will the tall guy up front please not get a perm next time?

Forget the cinema. The best home entertainment experience doesn't have to be more than a few steps from your bedroom. Whether you want to zone out and listen to your favorite music, spend all day trying to get 100-percent completion on all the games in your library, or pause *Mad Max* whenever you damn well please, doing it at home is the most fun, most convenient, and most pants-optional solution out there.



Setting up a Home Theater

Words by Mia Carisse Barrientos

What usually comes to mind when you hear home theater? A room that looks like a scaled-down cinema house complete with dim lighting, padded walls, carpeted floor, a set of La-Z-boys, chest-thumping sound system, and scent of popping popcorn? You might think it will cost you a fortune. Well, you'd be right, but not as right as you might think.

Truth be told, setting up a home theater isn't exactly cheap, but it shouldn't break the bank either. The evolution of technology has made a way for even the priciest audio and video equipment to sport tags that are more reasonable than ever. Don't complicate things. Having a room

to fill, an awesome TV, and decent set of speakers is already a start. You can always make do with the gear you have at home and turn it into something that mirrors the movie theater experience at a fraction of a cost.

TV

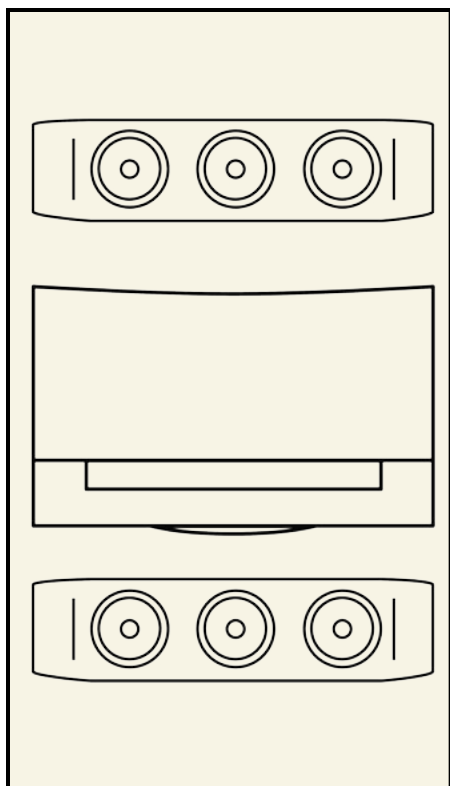
Let's say you still don't have a TV or are looking to get an upgrade, we're willing to bet you'd want a set that can actually compete with the grandeur of movie theater screens. However, in reality you should consider something that can fit in your room and is easy to move around in case you just feel like recasting the area. Purchase a set that you can get the most out of not just because of its aesthetic appeal; make a mental list of what you're going to need it for: movies, shows, gaming, and whatnot. For starters, an HDTV is the way to go if your budget doesn't permit for a smart TV or 3D TV purchase. Most HDTVs offer resolutions of up to 1080p that translates to sharp and well-detailed pictures—that is if what you're playing on the set has also got an HD native resolution.

If you're feeling a little extra generous, LG has the truly massive 105-inch, 5K UHD curved TV. The 105UC9 has a resolution of over 11-million pixels (5120 x 2160), 21:9 aspect ratio that brings the world of cinema, and drops it squarely in the middle of your home cinema setup. You get an image that's unlike anything you're ever likely to

see outside a theater. LG's True 5K Engine Pro and IPS 5K Panel removes all visual errors, and scales lower-resolution video up to give you superb image quality, regardless of the source.

The TV also has a 7.2-channel, 150W LG ULTRA Surround system developed in partnership with Harman Kardon, the name in home audio. You even get smart TV functions thanks to the highly intuitive, extremely useful webOS platform.

You could go big and get a projector. If you have the space, there are a few dozen in the market that sell for under 10k. Though they certainly won't guarantee you the greatest picture quality, you'll get the same excitement from a movie theater just by keeping the room dark. Before making a purchase, carefully study the specs. You want a projector with a bright picture—1000 to 2000 lumens for all the colors, not just white—support for high resolution videos, throw distance that will work for the room, and a high contrast ratio. You can opt for a projector screen but you can always shine a projector onto that plain blank wall in the room.



Sound System

What separates regular living rooms from movie theaters is surround sound that immerses you into the heart of the action. Let's face it, apart from a massive display, powerful sound is what really gets our pulses rising and hearts thumping. According to experts, a good place to start is a 7.1 speaker set. That's eight channels of audio, positioned around the room, at your disposal. When you purchase a speaker system, it will usually come with a receiver. The latter is what handles and processes the AV. You can, of course, go with Atmos-certified setups, which give you almost supernatural sound immersion, but prepare to pay a premium for it.

If you are not yet ready for a full-blown speaker system, a soundbar can be a great addition to your home theater system. This piece of tech usually comes in a sleek and compact form factor which rids you from the clutter and difficulty of installing a speaker system as it can sit modestly just below your TV but still deliver room-filling sound.

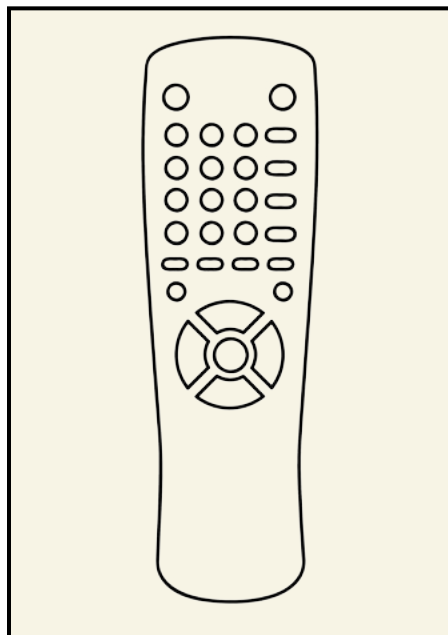
Kicking it up a notch

There's more to building a home entertainment system than just picking out technical components, and there's a whole lot more to cover if we delve into the nitty-gritty of the entire system—media centers, AV receivers, cables among others. Then again, to complete the ambiance of a home theater, we have to discuss the basics.

Lights

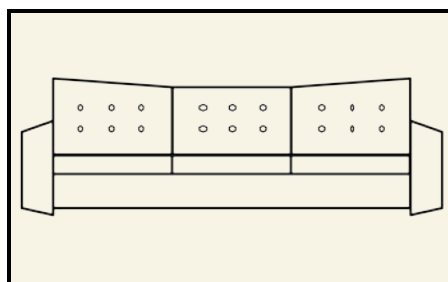
Movie theaters are dark for a reason. The image quality thrown by your projector or TV is best in a room with minimal to no light. Putting bright lights in your media rooms is like browsing your smartphone under broad daylight. Light interferes and takes away the vibrancy of your TV's output,

more so your projector's. But you do not want to entirely take away light from the room to avoid tripping and bumping into things. This is where you install dim lights or LED rope lighting to give you just enough illumination for navigating around the area. If your living room is your home theater, you can always just turn off the lights or put on dark colored curtains to block out light from windows during daytime.



Everything in the palm of your hands

Like Adam Sandler in the movie *Click*. It is somewhat ideal to have control over everything in just a flick of a finger. This is where universal remotes come in along with apps that'll help you juggle controls in just one convenient device.



A comfy sofa

Above all else, comfort should come first. With everything in place, the one thing you need to match the movie theater experience is a good chair. To reiterate that you don't really have to spend, your good ol' couch will probably suffice as long as you're every bit comfortable whilst plopped on it. But if you're willing to spend money there are quite a few good choices in the market: recliners, La-Z-Boys, bean bags, to eye-pleasing leather chairs.

Now that you've crafted your very own home theater, we are confident in saying you might never want to leave ever again.

Setting up a Listening Room

Words by Ren Alcantara



After a long day at work, few things are more relaxing than sitting back, and listening to some of your favorite music. Everyone does it a little differently, but if you're really serious about really turning on, tuning in, and dropping out, you're going to want a dedicated music room. This is by no means a comprehensive list, as whole books can be written about this topic, but it's a good place to start if you want to get into it.

First off, is a suitable room. While headphones are a perfectly acceptable way to consume quality music, there are going to be days you're going to want to listen without cans strapped to your head. Speakers are going to be necessary, so you'll have to pick a room that's sufficiently removed from anywhere volume and sound leakage might be a problem.

Secondly, you're going to want the proper room size. There are a lot of guidelines here, and whole articles are devoted to this topic, but to give you a general idea as to how it works, here's the 4-11. Sound energy comes from the speakers, moves air around, and fills up the air in the room. If your room is too small, there won't be enough space for the wavelength of the sound, and you get all sorts of nasty resonance. You could do with a smaller room, but you'd then have to mitigate that resonance with some additional (and pricey) steps. Take a look at the lowest frequencies your speakers can produce, and know that you'll need that much space for them to stretch their legs.

For example, a 35Hz sound wave is just over 32 feet long. Assuming you have a speaker that can audibly reproduce that frequency (another matter altogether), you'll need just over 32 feet of space (or some multiple of that) to keep it from running into a wall before it should. The price of land being what it is, however, sometimes you just won't

have the space you need. There are ways around that, though they are expensive, and involve the installation of diaphragmatic absorbers, which is pretty hardcore stuff.

Other things some people fail to consider are the roof and floor. While the side walls are more apparent in that they're what you see, in all likelihood, auditory reflections from the roof and floor are the ones you're going to hear first, just by virtue of their proximity to your ears.

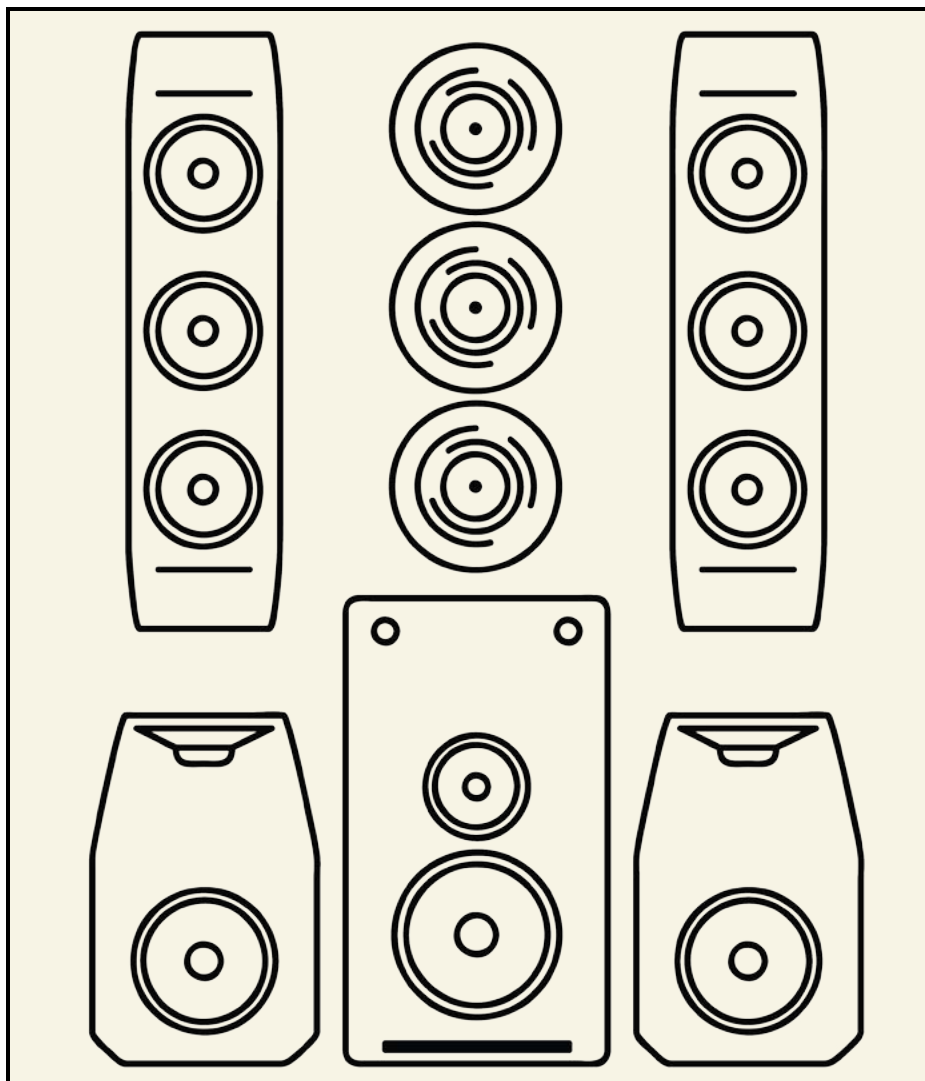
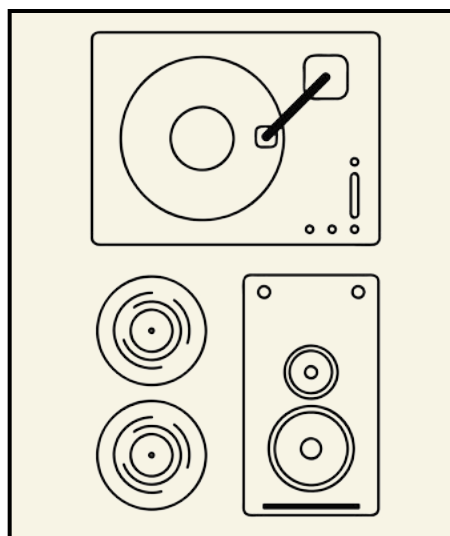
You can then move on to matching the speakers with the room. It's still going to have to do with the size of the room, (though for a slightly different reason from above) and the volume you're going to be listening at. While it can be tempting to get the largest speakers your budget will allow, bigger isn't necessarily better. Speakers pump a certain amount of energy into a space, in a particular pattern. Each speaker has its own pattern, which has to be taken in consideration with those of other speakers in your setup. You'll need some space here as well—enough so that the patterns don't interfere with each other. You're going to have to do some educated trial-and-error

here, and remember you're after what the setup will sound like, not how pretty everything is displayed.

You may have heard that sound reflections are bad. That's true, but only in the same way too much of anything is bad. Reflections give you a spacious soundstage, and add to the realism of your music. You want enough of it present, and with a small, slightly perceptible delay in order to get the gains you want. Apart from proper placement of your speakers, you will also need the correct placement of acoustic foam on the correct surfaces. There's some trial and error involved, but a calculator, the figure for the speed of sound, and a tape measure should go a long way towards minimizing the errors in your trials.

Hardware is another can of worms altogether. There's more in that scene than we have room for in such a small space, as well as other, far more qualified individuals to tackle the matter. As with any specific interest, the best places to look around are online fora. A forum is a place where people who are very deeply into their passions gather, and, fortunately for you, often come together to get rid of old stuff, for upgrade purposes. You can also get advice from experts who have been dabbling in this world for years, and find like-minded starters who ask questions you didn't even think to ask.

The world of home audio is a huge and highly technical one. It's as deep as any other technical pursuit, and one where setting up is as fun as finally enjoying the fruits of your tweaking. Just make sure you watch your bank account.

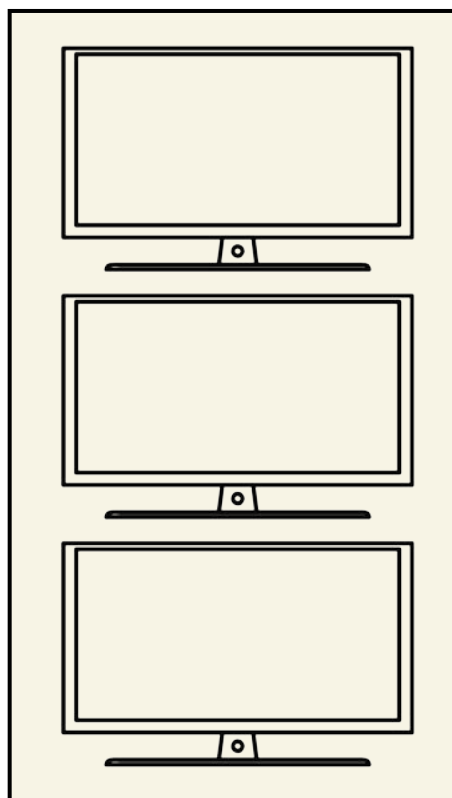


ひきこもり

Setting up a Gaming Room

Words by Chris Noel Hidalgo

As a gamer, nothing thrills me more than the thought of plopping down on a couch, feasting on chips and soda, and exploring the worlds of *The Legend of the Super Final Chronicles of Mario's Creed: Ultimate Remastered Version* (plus bonus DLC content). However, my gaming setup is not quite up to my expectations, with its aging laptop, dusty second monitor, buzzing desk fan, boring table, and Spartan chair. Ask me where I would prefer to do all my button mashing though, and I'd tell you "In a man cave with the following necessities..."



Multiple Displays

What's better than a 34-inch curved screen with an IPS LCD panel, 21:9 aspect ratio, 3440x1440 resolution, 1ms response time, and 144hz refresh rate? *Three* 34-inch curved screens placed side by side, each with an IPS LCD panel, 21:9 aspect ratio, 3440x1440 resolution, 1ms response time, and 144hz refresh rate! That's overkill, as any 34-inch screen alone would give anyone an immersive experience, but if you want some kicks (and if you have the moolah), more monitors will definitely be better.

While gaming with a super wide-angle field of view can only be done by properly optimized titles on PCs costing as much if not more than a house downpayment, multiple monitors can be useful if you want to multitask, e.g. a game on one screen, social networks on the other, and television stuff on the next. Sadly, those with weaker rigs and consoles have to make do with just one screen for gaming matters.



Gaming Platforms Galore

The reality is that even though most games are cross-platform titles, some AAA releases are unfortunately platform exclusives. Getting each system—the Playstations, Xboxes, Wiis, and PCs—will be the only sure-fire way of getting around this industry barricade. And because the production of games for legacy consoles don't stop even after the next-gen of cash-grabs has been released, you're going to have to keep the PS1 through 4, Xbox 1 through One, Wii and U, and their subsequent follow-ups if you hope to play most every title that has been and will be released.

The sheer amount of devices you have to hook up to your display(s) will equate to a spaghetti of video output cables that will be hard to distinguish from one another. If you don't fancy taking a headlong dive into a rat's nest, neatly route your cables to an HDMI splitter. Though a bit pricey for what they are, these switchers will allow you to seamlessly shift between systems without having to painstakingly swap out cables.

Wireless Peripherals

Cables are a necessary inconvenience for game systems because we're still quite far from achieving wireless power. Luckily, keyboards, mice, headsets, and analog controllers have all gone wireless, giving you one less thing to trip over. If in the past, wireless peripherals have been frowned upon due to unstable performance, signal interference, and slow response time, we've arrived at a point where their only glaring problem is dying out on you in the middle of an intense skirmish.

Media Cabinet

You can ghetto your setup and nonchalantly stack consoles and game boxes on top of each other on a plain coffee table, or you can have your friends weep in the glory of a sleek-looking video game cabinet. There are many shelves in the market that have racks aplenty, though if you want to take your gaming shrine to the next level, you should break out some elbow grease and build one yourself. All you need are a couple of wood panels, power tools, LED lights, power strips, nails, wood glue, primer, and paint to come up with your own personal sanctum that fits your needs and wants like a glove. Or, you could make a drawing and have a qualified professional build it for you. Nobody said you have to use your own elbow grease.

Comfy Seats

You have a couple of options here, from bean bags, to ottomans, to recliners, to dedicated gaming chairs, to the conventional sofa. Whatever your precious bum may choose, get the most fluffy, most comfortable one with appropriate lower back, middle back, and neck support. You are going to be glued on there for hours on end so it's best to find one that won't leave you feeling numb and sore when you (finally) stand up.

Mini Fridge

When you just have to grind a bit more to get that Sword of Noobish Enchantment or Frying Pan of Insta-kill, you're going to need the closest thing real life has to health and mana potions: energy drinks. Place a mini fridge near your couch for a hassle-free pick-me-up of ice-cold sugar-laced drinks. Stuff some pizza, nuts, chips, and other foodstuff in there as well so you'll never have to leave your throne again, save for a potty break.

Air Conditioner

All those doodads in a single room can generate a fair bit of heat that will leave you sweating, and your hardware with shorter lifespans. Add our country's hellish climate and you might as well be gaming in a sauna. Take the heat stress away with a low power air conditioner with automatic temperature control so the room's only as cold as you want it to be.

Other Knick-knacks

Of course, your little cave won't be complete without other important gadgets such as a power strip with surge protector, uninterruptible power supply, wireless router, multimedia remote, and lights. To make your room a bona fide gaming nook, fill the rest of the available real estate with video game and nerd posters, statues, and other trinkets such as discarded computer components.

Yep, being a gamer isn't a joke. You'd have to invest a sizeable amount to get all those gizmos. The trade-off's going to be worth it though—hours upon hours of comfortable, top-notch exploration, pawing, mashing, and clicking, interspersed with the envious looks you'll get from your friends.

Nissan X-Trail 2.0-L 4x2 CVT

Reviewed by Mika Fernandez-David | Photos by Nicolo David

We drove Nissan's crossover for a week. Is it really worthy of its "Testosterone Driven" tagline? Read on.



What's Hot:

- Looks good most comfortable
- One of the best front seats in the SUV market

What's Not:

- Fuel consumption not optimal for city driving
- Not really a 7-seater



DESIGN ★★★★★☆

To say that the much awaited update to Nissan's popular marque thrilled the socks off of aficionados is not an understatement. The third-generation X-Trail's contemporary styling and masculine appearance wowed fans of the previous generation, and made new ones from the over 190 markets it is being sold all over the world.

Built in Nissan's Kyushu plant in Japan, the handsome crossover is no longer the boxy carriage it used to be. It's bigger, bolder, with fluid lines and a broader athletic stance that makes it look even bigger than it actually is. It features the V-motion front grille design that unifies its look with Nissan's current line up. It also comes with sleek, boomerang-shaped head and tail lamps, as well as LED daytime running lights.

Inside, the cabin is very roomy when in the 5-seater configuration. When not in use, the third row folds flat, and the second row slides back, to make way for more luggage and leg room. For added versatility, the second and third row seats can be folded in a variety of configurations depending on the requirement. The 4x2's come with fabric seats, while the 4x4 variant come with leather seats.

In the driver's seat, the tilt and telescopic steering wheel that comes with audio control buttons is easy to position, and the instrument panel is straightforward and easy to read. Like the 4x4 variant, the 4x2 we drove also had a 5-inch TFT display between the tach and speedometer, however, it lacked some of the other features found in the higher spec'd variant.

The whole interior is sporty black gray, and is highlighted by carbon fiber, shiny black and chrome trims. Entertainment is courtesy of a 2-DIN head unit with CD/tuner/MP3/AUX/USB/iPod connectivity functions.

The Nissan XiTrail is Available in five color ways: fiery red; diamond black; pearl white; brilliant silver; and copper blaze which is exclusive to the 4x4 variant

HARDWARE ★★★★★☆

The 4x2 X-Trail is powered by Nissan's (ME20DD) 2.0-liter engine that produces maximum power of 144 Ps @ 6,000 RPM and torque of 200 Nm @ 4,400 RPM. The engine is mated to Nissan's XTRONIC Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) with the option of manual mode.

Suspension is courtesy of independent struts with stabilizers in front, and independent multi-links with stabilizers at the rear. It comes with front and rear disk brakes, 17-inch alloy wheels, and a limited slip differential (LSD).

Safety features include driver and passenger SRS airbags; ABS with electronic brake force distribution (EBD) and brake assist (BA); vehicle dynamic control with hill start assist (HSA); LED high mount break lamp; keyless system with remote; and engine immobilizer.

One thing the 4x2 variant sorely lacks is parking assistance or reverse sensors. Only, the 4x4 variant's Around View Monitor (AVM) that stitches a 360-degree view of the whole vehicle using four cameras mounted on the bumpers and side mirrors, and displayed on the 5-inch touchscreen head unit addresses this.

Air conditioning that Nissan is known for is taken care of by a full auto, dual-zone climate control system that guarantees passenger comfort.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★☆

Sometimes, the simplest things make the biggest impact. For the duration of the testing, I didn't have to rummage through my bag for the car keys because of the X-Trail's intelligent key and push engine start system. While this is something many vehicles come with these days, it is always an appreciated feature.

Another thing is Nissan's zero gravity seats that are one of the most comfortable in the SUV segment, hands down. The NASA-inspired seats provide good lumbar support no matter the height or size of the driver and front passenger.

Driving the X-Trail is an easy task. Steering is responsive and confident in turns. Body roll is minimal, and the ride is basically smooth, thanks to its electronic assists.

Because of its heft and displacement, the 2.0-liter may not be the zippiest and most fuel efficient in its class especially for city driving, but thankfully, this improves when its allowed to stretch its legs on long drives. Maneuvering tight spots also takes a bit of getting used to because visibility is somewhat obstructed by the size of its hood.

VALUE / PRICE ★★★★★☆

The 2.0-Liter 4x2 CVT is priced at PHP 1,375,000, while the top-of-the-line 2.5-Liter 4x4 variant is pegged at PHP 1,599,000.



BOTTOMLINE :

While owners might not want to cede control over the wheel, I'm thinking it would also make for a great chauffer-driven car.

BYD S6 2.4L DCT

Reviewed by Mika Fernandez-David | Photos by Nicolo David

Modern styling and top-notch safety features are something you wouldn't normally associate with China-made vehicles, but lo and behold, we have the BYD S6 compact crossover SUV—the brand's first independently designed SUV. The S6 is the first Chinese domestic SUV model awarded with the highest C-NCAP rating of five stars, and was also named SUV of the year by the Annual Ranking of Chinese Automobiles in 2011.

What's Hot:

- Affordable price tag
- Certified Euro-4 compliant

What's Not:

- Interior materials are hard to the touch





headlight leveling device; engine immobilizer; front and rear parking radars (sensors); ISOFIX docking ports; seatbelt miner; and side impact beams.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★☆

It's funny how people are always in search for the best deals, yet when it's right in front of them, they think it's too good to be true. Well, to be fair, some deals ARE too good to be true, luckily, this isn't one of them.

Granted that the BYD S6 isn't the cushiest compact crossover in the market today, it's nothing to scoff at either. It is a capable vehicle, with a good looking exterior, and sound engineering. Of course, to hit their price points, compromises had to be made. But instead of scrimping on the safety and other features, it was the plastics and other materials that had to give way. Not to say that the interior is shabby, though. As its fine grained leather seats can rival those from more expensive vehicles.

Thoughtful amenities such as the smart keyless system, push button ignition, and the side mirror-mounted camera are well appreciated.

Driving around in the S6 was an agreeable experience. Between familiarizing myself with the features and returning the double-takes of onlookers, I pretty much had my hands full to notice much else. Handling is neutral, and power is more than sufficient for driving around the city. During our time with it, we averaged around 8-8.5 kilometers per liter which isn't bad given its weight (1,620 kilos) and displacement. It's just too bad we didn't have enough time to bring it out to the expressways. I should note that there was a bit of a lag when I stepped on the accelerator, but it is only really noticeable if you nitpick.

VALUE / PRICE ★★★★★★

The BYD S6 comes in two trims—the 2.0-liter MT that is priced at PHP 1,168,000, and the full spec'd 2.4-liter DCT that is pegged at PHP 1,258,000. Both variants come with a 3—year or 100,000 kilometer warranty, which ever comes first.

DESIGN ★★★★★☆

The test unit delivered to our office was black; doctor black, to be exact. No, its exterior didn't look like a doctor's bag, but in some ways and a little imagination, it is possible to correlate it with a bag with numerous tools to aid a professional in carrying out his/her work.

The exterior of the S6 is stylish and modern. Its flowing lines give it a sporty exterior without going all-out aggressive, and its subtle character lines add visual interest to its bonnet and sides, as well as accentuate its silhouette. The S6 is equipped with roof rails, projector-type halogen lamps, fog lamps, and a dual-mode moon roof, that also adds to its premium appeal.

Being partial to dark interiors, I like how monochromatic the cabin is: everything is in shades of black, with touches of gray and silver to emphasize its key features. Parts generally fit well, without any squeaking or play. Undeniably though, the dashboard is easier on the eyes than to the touch because of the type of materials used.

The tilt and telescopic steering wheel is wrapped in leather and comes with audio and cruise control buttons, as well as switches for the digital info display. The 4.3 TFT-LED instrument panel is brightly lit with an almost cartoonish illumination of blues and purples. All gauges are digital, save for the conventional (analog) speedometer located dead center.

Its black leather seats come with red stitching for an added sporty feel. Front seats are manually adjustable, while the rear seats split 60:40 and fold front for added luggage space. When upright, there is also a rear center armrest with cup holders that come in handy during long drives.

The BYD S6 is available mecca gold, athens silver, timo white, and doctor black.

HARDWARE ★★★★★☆

The top tier BYD S6 is powered by a 2.4-liter Mitsubishi 4G69 MIVEC (Mitsubishi Innovative

Valve timing Electronic Control system) engine that produces 167 Ps @ 6,000 RPM and 234 nm of torque @ 4,000 RPM. This Euro-4 compliant engine is coupled with 6-speed automatic dual clutch transmission (DCT). Suspension is courtesy of McPherson struts in front and McPherson independent suspension with three connecting rods in the rear. It ships with 17-inch aluminum alloy wheels, and stopping power is taken care of by ventilated discs in front and solid disc brakes at the rear.

The head unit is an integrated multi-media system with a 7-inch touch screen monitor with Turner/CD/DVD/GPS Navigation ready/Aux Port/USB/SD Card/Bluetooth functionality, linked to nine speakers. The same monitor also displays the reverse camera, as well as the view from the camera mounted on the passenger side mirror, that gives the driver a peek at its blind side. This camera comes with an accompanying light, and can be switched on anytime via a button on the steering wheel.

Safety features include anti-lock brake system (ABS) + electronic brakeforce distribution (EDB); six SRS airbags (dual front, side, and curtain);



BOTTOMLINE :

The S6 is ripe for the picking, and can undoubtedly rival its contemporaries. It's time to put your predetermined notions aside. Take a chance. Build Your Dreams!



of refined materials and emphasizes horizontal lines to create a comfortable, harmonious environment. Interior features balance ride comfort with ultimate practicality, including a panoramic moon roof, more than 30 cleverly designed stowage spaces, multiple power outlets, flexible seating and cargo arrangements. For more flexible cargo space, the second and third row seats fold flat, allowing for longer and larger items.

Aside from minimizing NVH, the Everest also has Active Noise Cancellation that uses three strategically placed microphones inside the cabin to detect and measure sounds. A smart control module

instantaneously generates opposing sound waves, which are then fed through the audio system to cancel out unpleasant noises. The result is a quiet interior that lets the driver comfortably speak with third row passengers without shouting.

The all-new Everest is powered by two Duratorq powerplants: a 2.2-liter four-cylinder TDCi diesel engine that produces 160 PS and 385Nm of torque, and the larger 3.2-liter five-cylinder TDCi diesel engine with 200 PS and 470 Nm of torque.

The all-new Everest is available in 5 variants: 2.2L 4x2 Ambiente MT (PHP1.339M); 2.2L 4x2 Ambiente AT (PHP1,399M); 2.2L 4x2 Trend AT (PHP1,539M); 2.2L 4x2 Titanium AT (PHP1.639M); 3.2L 4x4 Titanium AT (PHP1.899M). For an additional PHP 100,000, Ford is also offering a Premium package for the Titanium variant that comes with HID Projector Type Headlamps with Auto-Leveling and Headlamp Washer; LED Day Time Running Lamp; 8-Way Power Adjust Passenger Seat; Power Fold 3rd Row Seat and Power Liftgate; 240V Inverter; Panoramic Moon Roof; Heads-Up Display; Adaptive Cruise Control; Lane Keeping System; Collision Mitigation; and Active Park Assist.

Colors available are cool white, black mica, sunset red, true red, metropolitan grey, blue reflex, and aluminum metallic.

Dealerships are now taking reservations for deliveries that will commence in September 2015.

Ford Launches all-new Everest

Words by Mika Fernandez-David

Following the global launch held in Beijing in November of 2014, Ford Philippines successfully launched the all-new Ford Everest, in ceremonies held at an outdoor tent in Filinvest City, Alabang.

The event area was designed with off-road obstacles that included steep inclines and descents, elephant holes, and a wading pool, highlighting the abilities of the all-new seven-seater in the simulated environment.

Built from the ground up by Ford's Asia Pacific design and product development teams, the all-new Everest boasts of new levels of rugged capability, comfort, smart features, and styling. Arguably one of Ford's most popular SUVs, the all-new Everest marks a bold new direction for Ford in the mid-size SUV segment, and is set to challenge what customers can expect from their traditional SUV, whether on or off road.

"The all-new Everest embodies Ford's fun-to-drive DNA, delivering a fully capable and competitive SUV that remains to be one of our most sought-after SUVs, and are excited to introduce the last member to our growing lineup of One Ford products here in the Philippines," said Kay Hart, managing director of Ford Philippines.

The Everest has a true body-on-frame design, assuring the torsional strength required for challenging terrains. Together with an intelligent four-wheel drive system, an active transfer case with Torque on Demand and best-in-class ground clearance of 225 mm and water-wading capability of 800 mm, and 20-inch alloy wheels, the all-new Everest helps drivers navigate difficult terrain with ease.

It is also equipped with the advanced, first-in-class Terrain Management System (TMS) with four terrain settings—Normal, Snow/Gravel/Grass, Sand, and Rock—with setting adjusting the vehicle's throttle response, transmission, intelligent four-wheel drive system, and traction

control to confidently tackle any situation. Hill Descent Control, Electronic Locking Rear Differential, and Torque on Demand via Active Transfer Case also come with the package.

"The all-new Everest is truly 'built Ford Tough,' that allows our customers to take on the world. Stunning, tough and exceptionally capable, it redefines what it truly means to be a progressive SUV. Its unshakable toughness and premium comfort makes it the perfect solution for customers looking for a tough and highly capable vehicle," said Minnie Valencia-Bustamante, vice president for marketing and sales, Ford Philippines.

The all-new Everest comes with many first-in-segment smart features that enable extraordinary journeys. It now comes with Ford's latest in-car connectivity solution, SYNC 2, which allows drivers to use voice commands to control the vehicle's entertainment system, climate control, as well as connected mobile devices. The eight-inch touchscreen head unit is connected to a 10-speaker sound system with an integrated subwoofer, providing excellent acoustics inside the cabin.

In addition to advanced active safety systems, a strong passenger cage built using high-strength materials like boron steel, and passive safety features, including up to seven airbags, help keep occupants safe in the event of a collision.

Inside, the all-new Ford Everest's modern interior makes use





HCPI brings back the Honda HR-V crossover

Words and Photos by Mika Fernandez-David | Additional Photos by Honda Press

Honda Cars Philippines has added yet another nameplate to its growing lineup, bringing back the HR-V crossover to our market. Based on a totally different concept from the model brought in in 1998, the all-new Honda HR-V is a new-generation compact crossover SUV offering the styling of a coupe, the comfort of a sedan, and the versatility of an SUV.

"The all-new HR-V was developed with a new definition in mind. HR-V now stands for 'Hip and Smart Runabout Vehicle.' The all-new HR-V presents the uniqueness in all dimensions, a premium and sporty crossover with high-class appeal that will fulfill the demands of a diversified lifestyle," said HCPI president and general manager Toshio Kuwahara at the launch.

The Thailand-made HR-V features high visibility, high ground clearance, full safety features, as well as the usability of a minivan with its flexible seats (ULT mode) allowing for generous cargo space. Smaller than the CR-V, but bigger than the Jazz, the HR-V is a versatile daily driver for those who don't want a sedan, but can't go full-on SUV.

Consistent with Honda's current line up, the HR-V sports Honda's "Exciting H Design!!!" concept that is seen in its solid wing face design with unified grille and lights. Its top trim is equipped with LED daytime running lights, LED dual projector head lights, and LED guide tail lamp.

Inside, the HR-V features a sporty interior with accents, that depend on the trim level. All variants come with smart entry and a push start button, and steering wheel controls that include paddle shifters, audio controls, telephony, access to the multi-information display (MID), as well as cruise control. The EL variant comes with leather seats and door panels, with touches of chrome on the dash, center console and doors.

The entire HR-V line up is powered by a 1.8-liter i-VTEC engine that promises a maximum power

output of 141Ps @ 6500 rpm, and 172Nm of torque at 4300rpm. This is mated to a Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) developed under Earth Dreams Technology.

Safety features include driver and passenger SRS airbags (with side and side curtain airbags for the top of the line variant); Vehicle Stability Assist (VSA); Hill Start Assist (HSA); Anti-Lock Braking System (ABS); Emergency Stop Signal (ESS); multi-view reverse camera with dynamic guidelines (for the mid and top of the line variant); rear sensors for the top of the top variant; seat belt reminder, ISOFIX points, as well as an Immobilizer. Incidentally, the all-new HR-V is also the first vehicle in HCPI's lineup to use the Electronic Parking Brake that replaces the conventional pedal or handbrake lever with a single toggle switch.

At the launch, Kuwahara announced that HCPI has already filed for EURO-4 certification for their entire lineup, including the newly launched HRV and 2016 City. Conformity to Euro-4 level emission translates to the reduction in emissions of hazardous particles that will help lessen the occurrence of ozone depletion and global warming.

During the customary drive after the launch, selected journo's were able to test out the HR-V's legs on the long expressways and provincial highways en route to Bolinao, Pangasinan. Despite the high ground clearance, the HR-V handles quite well and offers a comfortable ride for both the driver and passenger/s. The engine provides enough juice for spirited driving, and the improved CVT is responsive—especially on sport mode—for spirited driving.

The all-new HR-V is available in five variants: 1.8 S CVT (PHP1.190M); 1.8 E CVT (PHP1.230M); 1.8 E CVT Modulo (PHP1.290M); 1.8 EL CVT (PHP1.340M); and 1.8 CVT MUGEN (PHP1.5M).

The Modulo package comes with the following accessories: front grille; front and rear aero bumpers; side under spoiler; front lower garnish, running board and door visor, and the Modulo badge. The MUGEN package comes with a front grille; front under spoiler; rear and side under spoilers; lower wing spoiler, and ventilated visor. HCPI has also mentioned that the company will improve the availability of the MUGEN alloy wheels. These accessories can also be bought individually, and installed to the customer's variant of choice.



Color options for the HR-V include morpho blue pearl (EL and E variants); carnelian red pearl (E and S variants); rose black metallic (EL, E and S variants); modern steel metallic (EL, E and S variants); white orchid pearl (exclusive in EL variant); and taffeta white (E and S variants).

NV350 Urvan

No matter what the cargo, the new Nissan NV350 Urvan is here to make sure you get where you need to go. The massive van comes with a powerful 2.5L engine, based on the same platform as the powerful, current-generation Navara pickup, so you know you have all the power you need, regardless of what you're going to be transporting. To help make sure drivers make the most of the engine, while remaining fuel-efficient, the dash now comes with a convenient shift indicator that lets you harness all that power, without wasting any of your precious fuel. Families, commuters, merchandise, supplies, hardware, the Nissan NV350 can carry it all.



To ensure the comfort of your passengers, Nissan once more includes their legendary air-conditioning in the new Urvan. Re-designed vents ensure that even the rear-most passengers get cool air thanks to individual vents mounted on twelve points off-center on the van's ceiling, ensuring consistent, all-cabin cooling, even against out oppressive tropical climate.

Inside the cockpit, both the driver and front passengers alike will immediately feel the freedom of the extra leg- and elbow room afforded by the redesigned interior space. The shift selector's move onto the instrument panel board makes it easier for the driver to reach to when changing gears while at the same time,

freeing up the floor area to create more space to stow bags in. The steering wheel features a moveable range for tilt, while the driver's seat allows him to adjust the extent of the slide distance, for maximum driving comfort.

Nissan is willing to stand by their vehicle. Owners of the NV350 get a thorough service experience thanks to the Nissan Customer Assistance Center, and the Alagang Nissan Program, ensuring customers get affordable parts and servicing, nationwide. Those who will use the all-new NV350 Urvan for utility purposes and will be registered as PUV will get to enjoy three years manufacturer's warranty with no additional cost.



The all-new NV350 Urvan is available, in the following configurations and pricing:

15-seater	PhP 1.183M
18-seater	PhP 1.196M
3-seater cargo	PhP 1.177M

Yamaha unveils Blue Core engine at Yamaha International Motorshow 2015



Yamaha Motor Philippines, Inc. has revealed its next-generation engine, the Blue Core, during their annual motorcycle showcase last June 4 to 7. The new power plant promises even better performance and fuel economy to give the country's commuters, racers, and hobbyists a more superior riding experience.

The Blue Core is able to deliver more power with its integration of racing technologies such as the Diasil Cylinder and Forged Pistons. Lightweight and durable, these reduce friction and stabilize engine temperatures, optimizing the combustion process to achieve better fuel efficiency.

Four new motorcycles—the Mio i 125, Mio Soul i 125, N-MAX, and YZF-R3—will arrive strutting the Blue Core engine. All come with an aggressive yet easily maneuverable frame to give riders a confident steed on the road. Meanwhile, the YZF-R3 is a high velocity, everyday super sports bike designed as a follow up to the YZF-R15.

Also making an appearance during the showcase were Yamaha's Big Bikes that will be available later this year; the three-wheeled Yamaha Tricity; the YZF-R1 and R15; the Wave Runner and outboard motors from the company's Marine category; and generators from their power lineup.

There were also fun activities for guests such as the photo booth and the motorcycle selfie where event goers who took the best photos received freebies. Yamaha Club members also had an exclusive one on one test ride with the new Mio i 125.



IPC holds 2015 Isuzu Truck Fest



Isuzu Philippines Corporation, led by newly installed president Hajime Koso, opened the 2015 Isuzu Truck Fest at the SMX Convention Center in Pasay City. The annual event is Isuzu's venue to showcase all their vehicles for industrial applications under one roof.

"In selling our trucks we instill at least three points in mind: to contribute in the over-all logistics, minimize truck down time, and lastly listen to customer's need. We provide our customers with world-class quality trucks and we wouldn't want to leave them at that the key is to continue to improve together with the customers. We listen to them so we can adjust to what they need and develop better products," said Koso.

"The trucks and bus segment plays a vital role in building the nation. It is not surprising that in the past two years our trucks sales has seen a significant growth and this is parallel to the over-all growth of the economy," he added.

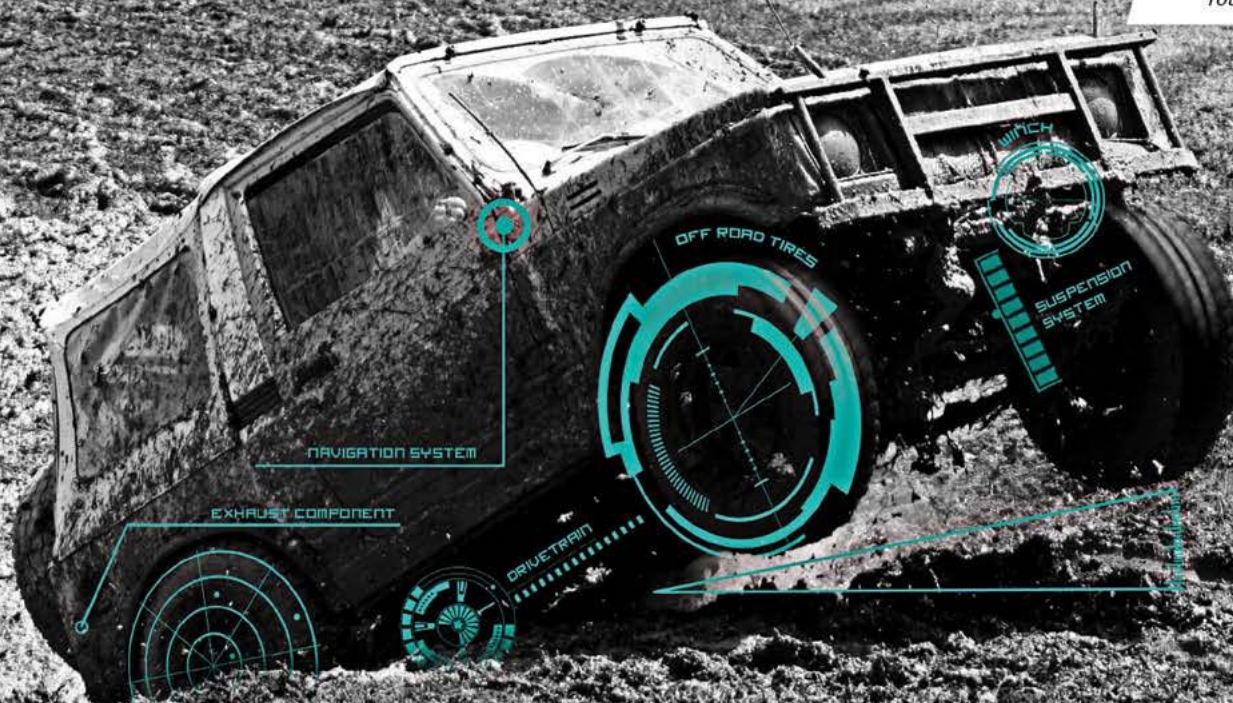
On display are twenty six variations of Isuzu's locally assembled N-Series light-duty multi-purpose trucks and their F-Series medium-duty trucks. Also featured are their C and E-Series heavy-duty rigs that are shipped CBU from Japan, to be used as trailer trucks, oil tankers, concrete mixers, and the like.

For the industrial truck segment, Isuzu only provides the cab and chassis. It is the certified and accredited partner of body builders like Almazora, Centro, Pinnacle, Multilift, Firewolf, and Anos who design and fabricate suitable body kits for trucks and its end users.

Also present to lend his support was former IPC president Yoshifumi Komura, who now holds the position of managing executive officer at Isuzu Motors Limited in Japan.

As of April 2015, IPC has reportedly already sold a total of 1,270 trucks and buses, a 42 percent increase from the same period last year. This indicates that IPC is on track to surpass last year's sales, and is eyeing to sell at least 4,000 units to maintain its position in the industry.





BE EQUIPPED FOR THE UNEXPECTED

- There's a lot more to off-roading than just jumping on your 4WD and pointing your headlights toward the trail. Make sure your truck is outfitted with these bare minimum essential gear before leaving the pavement behind.

Recovery Tools

- Rugged Hi-Lift Jacks puts you in command of situations requiring lifting, pulling, pushing, winching and clamping.
- Mighty Winches extract your truck from sticky situations when your four clicks out on the trail. It also helps in making your vehicle more versatile and helpful to a buddy who requires serious rescuing from an unforgiving environment.

Off Road Kit

The "More is better" rule also applies to off-roading with these essential gear.

- Straps
- Shackles
- Work Gloves
- Fire Extinguisher
- Jumper Cables
- Shovel
- Flashlight
- Hatchet
- CB Radio
- GPS Device

Use a reliable set of off road tires

Using the right off road tires can enable four-wheeling success over various extreme driving conditions. It allows you to not worry about losing grip when it's most needed. It gives your truck a feeling of wearing spiked football shoes that can take on the toughest of hills, rocks, water and muddy slopes that nature can summon.

Navigate through the harshest terrain

Bridgestone Dueler Tires are designed and tested to perform in the most severe off road conditions. From its revolutionary 3D Technology used to develop advanced tread pattern designs, its thicker casing structure all the way to its latest rubber compounds, each aspect enables you to move through the grittiest terrain with confidence.



May 2015 was another great month for Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation (TMP), as it set another sales record selling a total of 10,511 vehicles. This feat broke their March 2015 record of having sold 10,237 units.

The automaker's locally manufactured sub-compact, the Vios, also reached its highest sales to date since its introduction in July 2013. A total of 2,886 units were sold for the month of May, easily making it the best-selling vehicle in the country. This is also the highest record a single model has achieved in the history of the local automotive scene.

For the first five months of the year, TMP has sold 19,408 units in the Passenger Car category, and 28,386 units in its Commercial Vehicle Segments, totaling 47,794 units year-to-date. Compared to the same period of last year, Toyota's performance grew by 19-percent.

In a statement, TMP president Michinobu Sugata stated, "Achieving a new sales record last May displays the continued strong demand for our vehicles having sold more than 10,000 units last March and again in May. This is a solid testament of the trust and confidence of the consumers in continuously choosing our products. In addition, with the recently-signed EO 182 entitled 'Providing for a Comprehensive Automotive Resurgence Strategy (CARS) Program', this will allow continuity and increase in contributions to the Philippine economy of the auto industry through local manufacturing."

Toyota breaks own sales record for May.



Suzuki Philippines launches new Suzuki Big Bikes center in Makati



With 105 years of manufacturing and 62 years of motorcycle engineering behind them, Suzuki has always been at the forefront of motorcycle design. This is most evident in their line of big bikes, though it has been a segment that has been overshadowed by the wider availability of their smaller-displacement bikes. This is all about to change, with the opening of their first Big Bike Center, located right in the heart of Makati.

The new Suzuki Big Bikes Center, which is also the brand's first Auto-Moto concept shop, matches the aesthetic of existing Suzuki 3S shops, meeting, and exceeding customer expectations. The shop provides



customers with a superb retail experience, service, and parts for the most relevant motorcycle models.

The shop, established with long-standing partner Wheeltek Motor Sales Corporation, officially carries the GSR 750, GSX-R600, V-Strom 650 ABS, and Bandit 650S, along with the massive V-Strom 1000 ABS.

Present at the inauguration were Wheeltek's president, Reynaldo Odulio Sr., executive vice president Rosario Teresita Odulio, VP for finance Raymond Joseph Odulio, VP for operations, Roscoe Odulio, and general manager, Bobby Orbe, joined by Suzuki Philippines' president Hiroshi Suzuki,

managing director Norminio Mojica, general manager for sales and marketing, Jun Bulot, and assistant national sales manager, Mitsunori Shiraishi.





HATAW SA TAG-ULAN

SPECIAL PROMO



SUZUKI FI FUEL INJECTION

RAIDER FI



SPALDING + **SUZUKI HELMET**
SPORTS WATCH

Promo runs from July 1 - August 31, 2015
Per DTI IV-A Permit No. 12-360 series of 2015
Actual colors of promo items may vary based on availability.

FIRST SUZUKI BIG BIKES CENTER AT MAKATI CITY GRAND OPENING!



Mr. Reynaldo Odulio Sr., PhD receives the Seal of Excellence for having the first Suzuki Big Bikes Center in the Philippines presented by Mr. Hiroshi Suzuki.



FIRST SUZUKI BIG BIKES CENTER OPENS IN MAKATI!!

Wheeltek and Suzuki Philippines opened the first Suzuki Big Bikes Center at the heart of country's Central Business District recently adding up another milestone to their already meaningful 4 decades of partnership.



Philippine Racing Champion & Legend Mr. Butch Chase delivered his congratulatory message to the two names in the motoring industry - Wheeltek and Suzuki which are both close to his heart

RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

Mr. Reynaldo Odulio Sr., PhD President of Wheeltek Motor Sales Corporation and Mr. Hiroshi Suzuki, President of Suzuki Philippines Inc. headed the ribbon cutting ceremonies joined by Wheeltek's Executive Vice President Mrs. Teresita Odulio and Vice President for Sales and Marketing Mr. Roscoe Odulio.



CEREMONIAL TOAST

Wheeltek General Manager Mr. Bobby Orbe, Suzuki Philippines Managing Director Norminio Mojica and General Manager for Sales and Marketing of Motorcycle Division Jun Bulot raised their glasses at the ceremonial toast.



INSIDE THE SUZUKI BIG BIKES CENTER

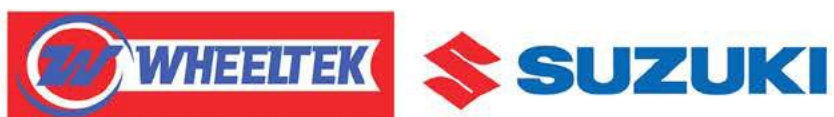


The Suzuki Information corner is designed to provide a comprehensive information about Suzuki Big Bikes with Apparel Display Module that showcases the brand's latest after sales offering.

SUZUKI BIG BIKES ALL-MODEL DISPLAY



The whole center exudes the innovative and aesthetically pleasing ambience of the latest Suzuki 3S Shop concept. Accredited Suzuki mechanics are waiting for you to offer high quality service at the shop's Service Bay.



SUZUKI AUTO AND BIG BIKES CENTER MAKATI

2929 BAUTISTA COR. FINLANDIA STS.
BRGY. SAN ISIDRO, MAKATI CITY

TEL NOS. (02) 844 3954 / 844 6255



Get a **FREE Suzuki Fi lanyard** when you visit the store and present this magazine issue!

THE FIRST SUZUKI AUTO-MOTO CONCEPT SHOP IN THE PHILIPPINES!



Volkswagen PH launches Child Safety Initiative



Since its launch at the Manila International Auto Show (MIAS) last April 9, Volkswagen Philippines' Child Safety Initiative corporate social responsibility project has been giving children as young as four years of age sample driving experiences using a simulated road system. The objective is to educate their young minds on the proper traffic rules, as well as to heighten their awareness of possible dangers on the road. There had been several such activities so far, generating many positive responses from the kiddie participants, their parents and observers.

Volkswagen Philippines also announced its partnership with one of the largest mall chains in the country, Robinsons Malls. The collaboration was formally declared last May 23 at Robinsons Magnolia, graced by no less than the Department



of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) assistant secretary Dante Lantin.

"We are pleased to partner with Robinsons Malls in our campaign towards child road safety," VW-PH president and CEO John Philip Orbeta said. "They have provided ample space in their malls to allow us to lay out our road tracks and let families to have their kids go through this extremely important educational opportunity in a fun learning environment."

Kiddie participants undergo an orientation from professional driving instructors of the Philippine Global Road Safety Partnership, after which they go on a practice run. When they complete the driving tasks, they are awarded a Junior Driver's License. Registration and participation are absolutely free.

"We are very happy to be a mall partner of Volkswagen Philippines for this worthy project. We believe it is better to inculcate the importance of road safety while our children are young," expressed Robinsons Land Corporation operations director for Luzon Malls Irving Wu.

Still in the pipeline are the following scheduled events:

- JUL 11-12 Robinsons Place Antipolo
- JUL 18-19 Robinsons Galleria
- JUL 25-26 Market Market
- AUG 01-02 Alabang Town Center
- AUG 08-09 Robinsons Place Malolos
- AUG 15-16 Robinsons Place Manila
- SEP 05-06 Robinsons Forum Mandaluyong
- SEP 19-20 Robinsons Lipa

The Volkswagen Child Safety Initiative campaign has three institutional partners, namely: Safe Kids World Wide Philippines, Department of Transportation and Communications and Philippine Global Road Safety Partnership.



Petron takes industry lead with production of EURO-4 gasolines

Market leader Petron Corporation achieved an industry first as it announced that all gasoline variants produced at its Bataan refinery are now Euro-4 compliant. The Euro-4 gasoline products are now available in Petron service stations in Mega Manila and will soon be available nationwide, meeting the government's mandate ahead of schedule.

Petron, which pioneered the first locally-produced Euro-4 premium plus gasoline in the Philippines, Blaze 100 Euro-4, is also the first company to locally produce a full line-up of gasoline variants that meet Euro-4 standards. This is six months ahead of the government mandate to make available Euro-4 fuels by January 2016.

Petron has four gasoline variants—the most extensive in the industry—namely Blaze 100 Euro 4 (RON 100), XCS (RON 95), Xtra Advance (RON 93), and Super Xtra (RON 91). All Petron Euro-4 gasolines, with world-class additives, ensure engine cleanliness and efficient combustion for optimum engine performance and improved fuel economy.

Euro-4 is a globally-accepted European emission standard for vehicles, which require fuel with significantly low amounts of sulfur (0.005-percent or 50 parts per million) and benzene (maximum of

1 percent by volume). Reduced sulfur and benzene content in gasoline makes fuels more environment-friendly, as vehicles release less harmful emissions.

The company added that Blaze 100 Euro 4 even exceeds Euro-4 global standards. Introduced in July 2013, two-and-a-half years ahead of the mandate, this premium gasoline has a sulfur content of less than 35 parts per million and 1 percent benzene content, superior than the Euro-4 standard.

"The local production of various gasoline grades under this global fuel standard is another milestone in the oil industry. These products are proudly Philippine-made," Petron president and chief executive officer Ramon Ang said. "As the pacesetter in the industry, we hope that this encourages other players to follow suit. More importantly, our launch of a complete line-up of Euro 4 gasoline products

affirms our commitment to introduce fuels relevant to consumers while reducing our environmental footprint," Ang added.

Petron's early compliance was made possible by its massive USD 2-billion upgrade at its Bataan refinery which increases its local production of gasoline, diesel, and petrochemicals and also allows the production of Euro-4 fuels.

The company said it will start the domestic production of Euro-4 compliant diesel products soon.



Petron offers complete line-up of Euro-4 gasolines. Petron Corporation's full line-up of gasoline variants: Petron Blaze100 Euro-4, XCS, Xtra Advance, and Super Xtra are now all Euro-4 compliant. This is ahead of the mandate of the Department of Energy which requires oil companies to offer Euro-4 fuels by January 2016 to help improve air quality in the country. Motorists can now avail of said products in Petron service stations in Mega Manila and soon, nationwide.



HATAW SA TAG-ULAN

**SPECIAL
PROMO**



SUZUKI FI FUEL INJECTION

SHOOTER 115 FI

Smash 115.



**GET THESE!
SUZUKI HELMET + SUZUKI JACKET
WHEN YOU BUY SHOOTER 115 FI OR SMASH 115**

Promo runs from July 1 - August 31, 2015
Per DTI IV-A Permit No. 12-360 series of 2015

Actual colors of promo items may
vary based on availability.

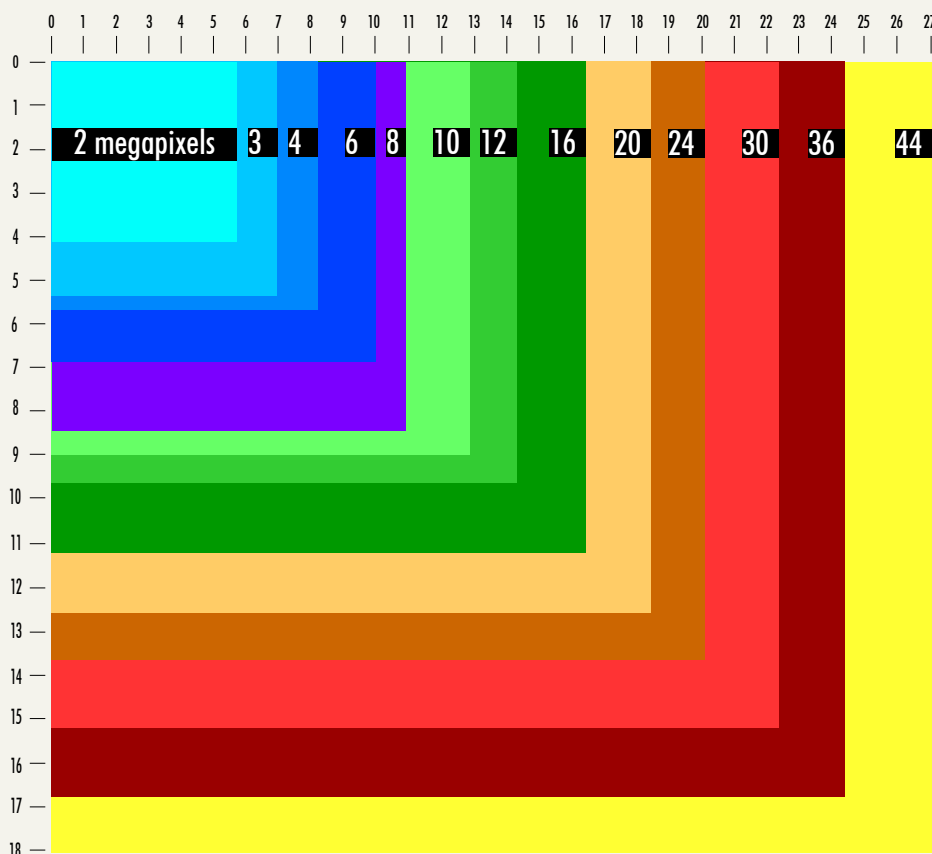


MEGAPIXELS

WHAT THEY ARE AND WHY THEY DON'T MATTER AS MUCH AS YOU THINK

Words by Chris Noel Hidalgo

I've overheard quite a few people saying that at the rate phone cameras are upping their megapixel count, they're poised to overtake DSLRs in the photography landscape. It makes sense that the more pixels tacked on there, the better shots you'll be able to take, right? Well, not technically. There's more to photography than just megapixels and while they certainly matter, they're not the meat of the camera.



Corresponding megapixel count for different print sizes (in inches).

What exactly are megapixels?

A pixel is the smallest unit of a digital image, usually seen when you fully zoom in on a picture. Add the prefix "mega" and you have megapixels—essentially one million pixels lumped together. Pixels don't have a physical measurement, rather, they depend on the screen resolution of your display. Higher screen resolutions mean each pixel is smaller and are thus less noticeable, while lower resolutions magnify pixels making them stand out.

How many MPs do you really need?

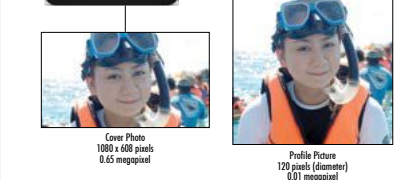
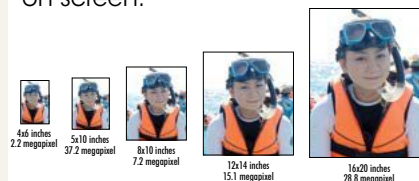
The industry standard for physical prints currently stands at 300 pixels per inch (ppi). That means if you're printing on a 4 x 6-in piece of paper, you'll need an image measuring: $(4 \times 300) \times (6 \times 300) = 2,160,000$ pixels

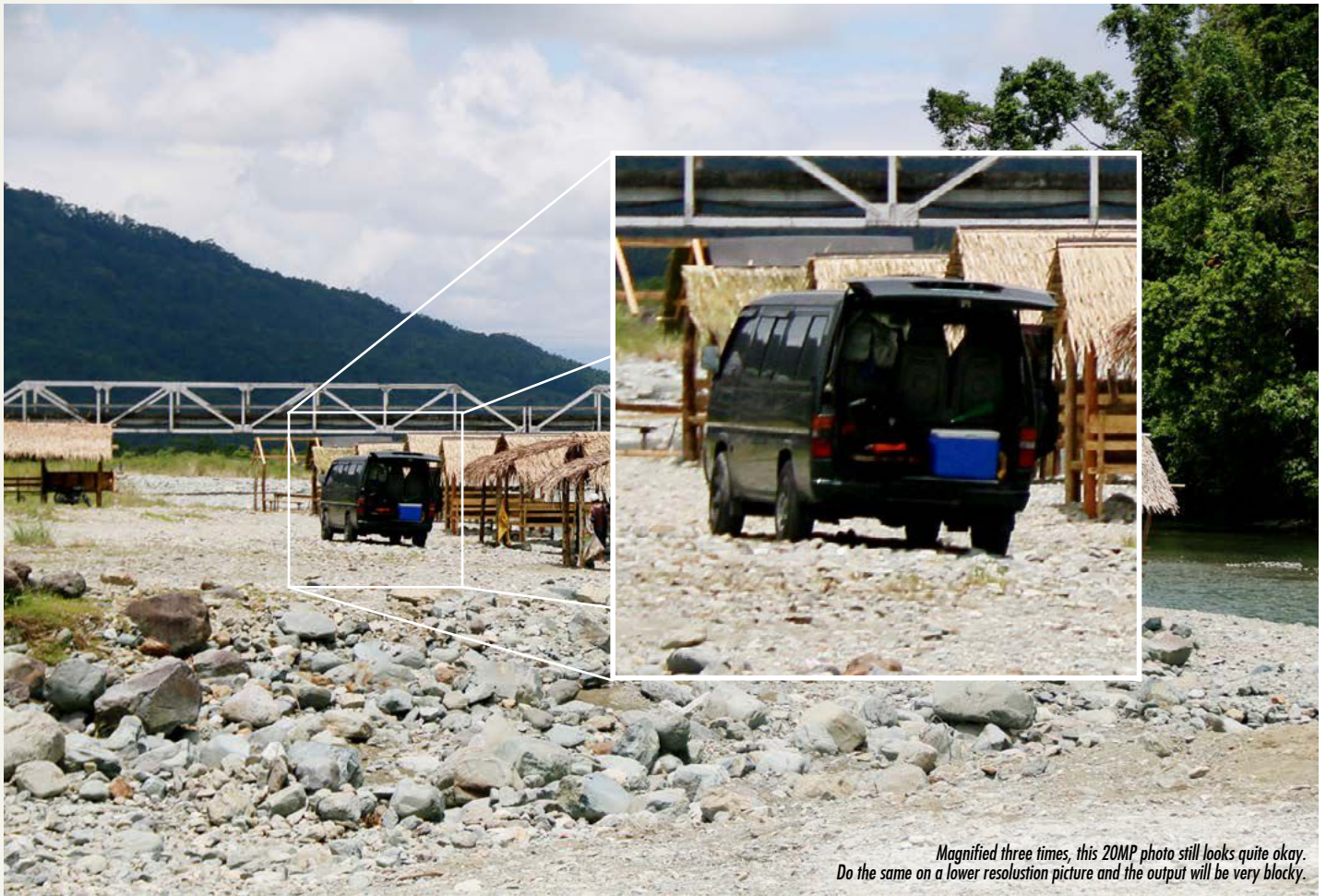
Yep. You'll only need 2.16-million pixels (2.16MP) to properly fill a physical print that size. The number's even smaller for social media use.

Twitter profile pics max out at 0.15MP, Facebook covers at 0.27MP, newsfeed images at 0.19MP, clicked images at 0.25MP, Instagram uploads at 0.37MP, and Google+ cover photos at 0.65MP.

Even if you upload images with larger resolutions, social networking sites usually downscale them for bandwidth efficiency purposes. The result are photos that for the most part look similar, and you won't really be able to tell if they were shot by a 3MP potato or a 25MP bazooka.

Here are the dimensions of social network pictures as they appear on screen.





Magnified three times, this 20MP photo still looks quite okay. Do the same on a lower resolution picture and the output will be very blocky.

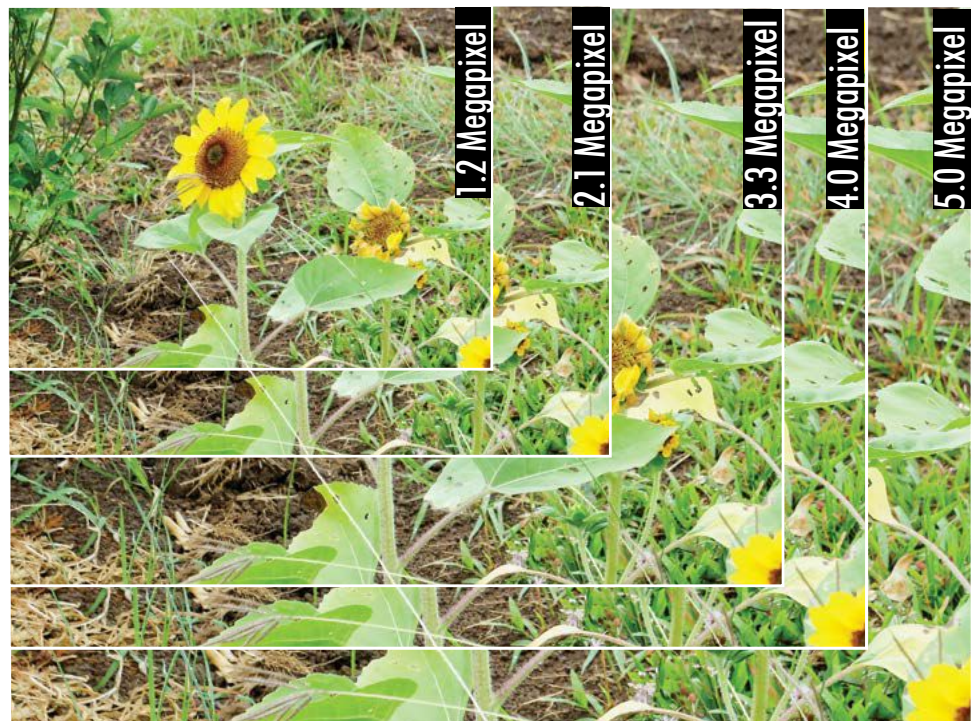
Why get more megapixels then?

The MP count on social network images are as they appear on screen, meaning if you zoom in even a tiny bit, they're going to pixelate and reveal their flaws. Pictures containing more pixels will of course not cave in so easily. This is very useful for cropping and recomposing your snaps. Additionally, high resolution images don't need to be blown up excessively just to fill life-sized tarpaulins and billboards.

So shouldn't I just focus on MPs?

While megapixels certainly do have some influence on images, other factors such as sensor size, lens type, scene lighting, focus, exposure, clarity, and of course, the photographer's skills, are just as capable of swaying snaps from bad, to good, to best. These elements affect certain aspects of outputs, and you'll have to take all of them into account before hitting the shutter button. Discussing all of photography's cruxes will take more than a couple of pages, so we'll tackle them together one by one in the coming months.

Long story short, unless you're a professional photographer being tapped to shoot billboards and larger-than-life prints and displays, you probably don't need a bajillion megapixels. Remember, MPs refer to quantity, not quality.



Remember, MPs refer to quantity, not quality.

Music for the Soul

Words by Mia Carisse Barrientos



Music is food for the soul. Similar to how eating chocolate relieves stress, listening to music has this profound effect that can easily soothe one's psyche. Your mood can be shaped by the kind music you listen to; upbeat tunes can make you feel happy, sad songs tend to leave you with melancholic feelings, while non-vocal music helps you stay focused.

The fact is, musical preference varies widely from one individual to another. You're really the only one who can decide on the type of music you like and what you would want to listen to, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't listen to other people's suggestions. Whether you're in need of a pick-me-up or something to fire you up for work, we've fashioned select music suggestions to help your current disposition and get your to-do list done.



For Reading

One way to concentrate while reading *The Canterbury Tales* is with the absence of sound. I mean, how will you be able to stir your imagination and enter the literary realm if *Uptown Funk* is loudly playing in the background? However, music can also stimulate thoughts and bring your book reading experience up to a whole new level. Curating a playlist that best suits the piece you happen to be reading invokes reaction. It can also drown out extraneous noises for when you are reading in crowded places. For starters, choose non-vocal music, ones without lyrics on them. We suggest putting light classical, downtempo electronic, mellow, ethnic, and nature music on your reading playlist—something to keep your ears occupied without hoarding all your attention.



For Study or Work

It has often been cited that classical music improves a person's brain power. Works like those of Mozart, Beethoven, Bach, and Pachelbel, help boost your spatial-temporal reasoning. It keeps your mind sane, no matter how complicated the situation you are in. Basically, listening to classical music comes in handy for when you are cramming for deadlines which requires a solid, well-thought output. Also, non-interruptive soundtracks from motion pictures, video game soundtracks, and foreign language

music help you concentrate and get your creative juices flowing.

Other recent studies have shown that, contrary to the magical mental powers classical music bestows, people perform better listening to something that is familiar and comfortable for them, classical or otherwise. Again, you don't want your attention split between *All About The Bass* and your Taxation textbook, so pick appropriate tunes.

There are days I listen to hard-hitting music to get pumped up. It's like my mind is running on a treadmill, it gives me just the right dose of energy to help me get my writings done and remain on the go right after. But, like we said earlier, music preference widely varies between individuals. You can try studying or working to vocal jams, but if it diverts your attention from what you're supposed to be doing, it's better to just stick with our aforementioned suggestions.



For Exercise

This isn't exactly new, but there isn't any better workout motivator than music. Studies show that music with high-groove gets our minds excited and triggers movement, it serves as a platform for us to get into the zone and start shedding unwanted body fat. No matter how intense and exhausting the workout routine is, up-tempo beats have the ability to make you move. It makes the dread of working out a little less excruciating.

The Shape of Things to Come

Words by Presy Alba

During the Apple Worldwide Developer Conference (WWDC) 2015 held in June, at what Apple CEO Tim Cook called the epicenter of change, Apple announced many exciting new things that Apple fans will certainly look forward to in the coming months.

I'd like to share the most significant of the announcements:

Off the bat, Tim Cook announced that Apple fans can expect a lot of great updates in the coming months: a lot of new capabilities to OS X with the release of Mac OS X 10.11 El Capitan; an update for iOS with iOS 9; and native apps to the Watch, along with a new version of watchOS.



Mac OS X 10.11 El Capitan

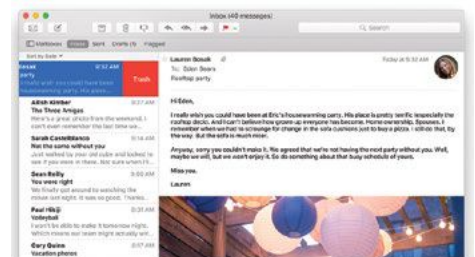
Craig Federighi, Apple's senior vice president for software engineering, explained that the new Mac OS X will be called El Capitan, after the famous rock formation within the Yosemite National Park. He explained that El Capitan's focus is on experience and performance, which is why Spotlight has been made "more expressive, more powerful, and more knowledgeable than ever." He also announced major enhancements to the native OS X apps and advancements in how Apple users manage windows on the system.

A short demonstration showed some of these new features:



- The cursor gets bigger when you wake the Mac, making it easier to find.
- Safari will allow sites to be pinned to the tab bar, so users can easily keep favorite sites on hand for faster reloading.
- Spotlight will include contextually aware results and allow you to search in your own words.
- Mail will be easier to navigate—with features like quickly marking an email, deleting unwanted mail with a quick swipe gesture, full screen view, and open tabs in the Compose window.
- Windows management will be smoother and faster with Mission Control, and El Capitan will also allow users to snap windows side by side to create a split view.

El Capitan will be more efficient and faster—1.4 times for app launching, 2 times for app switching, 4 times faster to open PDF in preview. Architectural improvements have been made by adding Metal to OS X to enhance user experience of graphics.



iOS 9

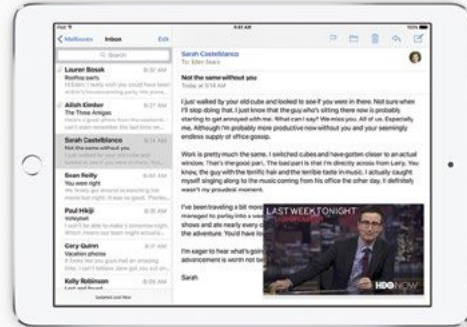
What users can expect with the release of iOS 9 is a Siri with a new UI, making it a more intelligent and proactive virtual assistant.

Some of the great iOS features demonstrated during the keynote are:

- Your iPhone can learn your habits and what you like— it can offer music you like to listen to when you plug in your earphones, or offer to play an audiobook when you get in the car. Your iPhone can also automatically add invitations from your email to your calendar without any intervention from you.
- **Privacy** — Craig assured users that their habits and preferences will not be collected and saved in the cloud; these will remain in-device, not associated with Apple ID, not linked to other Apple services, and not shared with third parties.
- Notes will be more powerful with more options that will allow you to format, create checklists, draw, share, and sync notes across all iOS and OS X devices via iCloud.
- Maps will be more powerful and useful not only for drivers but will also provide public transit information. Transit considers all the different available transit lines —buses, trains, and subway lines that run through a particular station.
- **News** —this new feature will bring personalized news from global news sources.

Specific to iPad, expect these new features with the release of iOS9:

- **QuickType Keyboard** —shortcuts will be added to the bar to easily cut, paste, format, and provide access to your attachments. Two fingers on the iPad keyboard turns it to a trackpad so you can control the cursor and make selections. Attach a physical keyboard and iOS will help you discover shortcuts and more features.
- **Multi-tasking**
- Task switcher will be full screen and you will be able to see and scroll through all open apps.
- Slideover is a feature that will allow you to check other apps like Mail while working on another app.
- Picture-in-picture will help you to respond to email without closing the video you are watching.

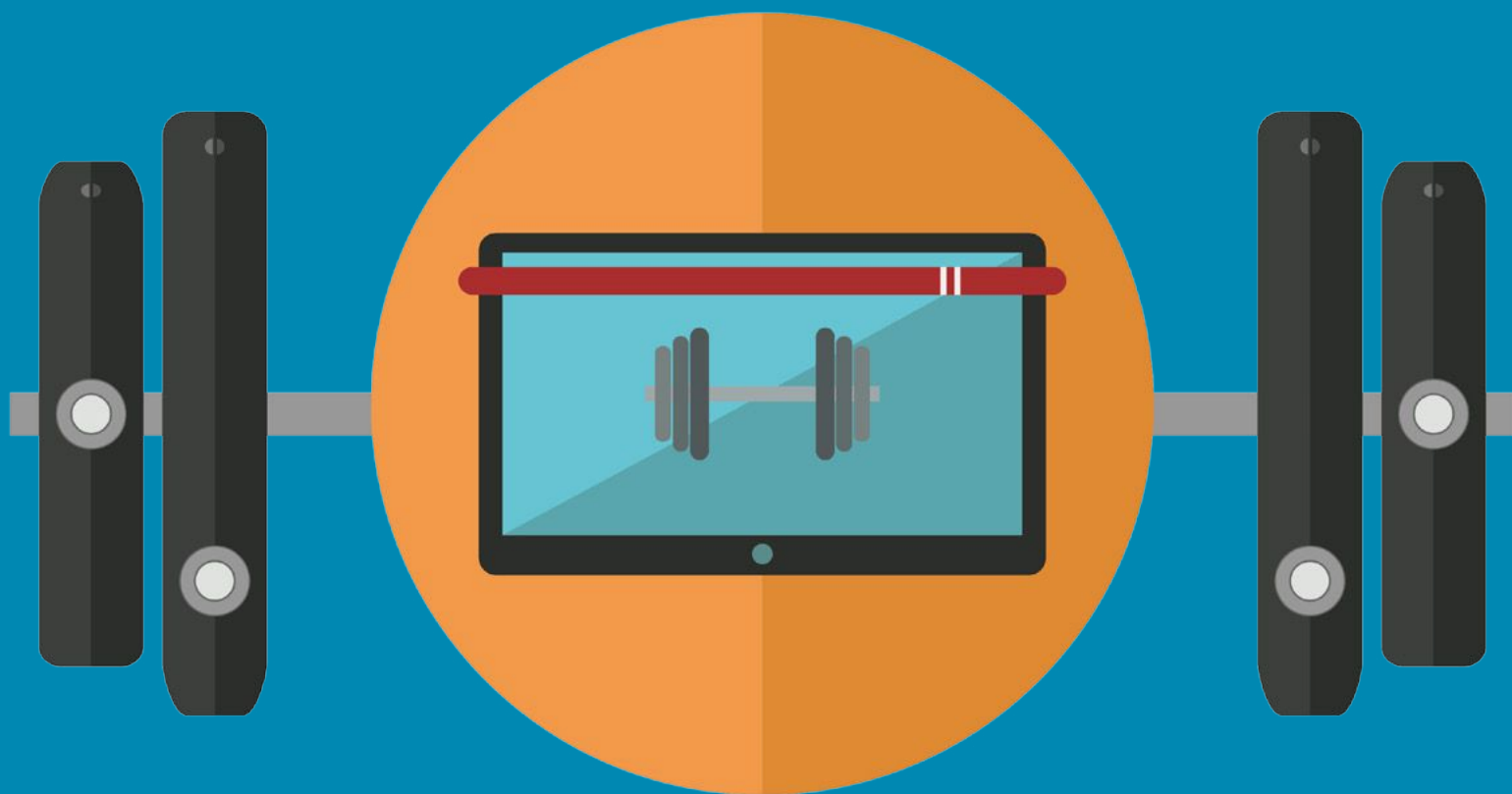


Watch OS

The Apple Watch was made available only a few months back with a long waiting line, but Apple is already working on the second version of the operating system of this most personal of all Apple devices. Some additional native apps coming up:

- **Photo Face** - the watch face is customizable to show a favorite picture or a series of photos every time you raise your arm, or beautiful timelapse photos of great locations.
- **Time Travel** - will allow you to view your scheduled activities and other time-related information by rotating the watch crown.
- Read and reply to emails from the Apple Watch
- Interact with Siri to keep track of your activities.
- **Nightstand Mode** - while the Apple Watch is charging it still displays time. You can set an alarm to wake you in the morning.





Turn your Smart TV into a home gym with these apps

Words by Mia Carisse Barrientos | Art by Emmanuel Luz

Television has stood the test of time, and we don't need rocket science to prove that. From big and chunky CRTs, LCDs, to slender LEDs, TV sets remain unrivalled when it comes to living room entertainment. Combine that vivid display with smart technologies, you'll come home and won't ever want to leave.

Sure there are certain tasks you can only accomplish away from home, but technology has a lot going for it. You can even get your workout on without having to leave the comfort of your abode. Take for example your smart TV. To get the most out of your internet-connected set means you should download and use apps. The apps available vary from manufacturer to manufacturer, with so many functions it can even come as surprise that you can use it as your home gym complete with a personal trainer.

Wise up and save up on excessive gym fees with these smart TV apps that can help you stay fit at home. You'll have to check your TV's app store to see what you have available, but here are some of our favorites.

YouTube

We know you can watch YouTube videos on your phones and desktops all-day, so why not enjoy them on your big smart TV? Better yet, you can search for workout videos to follow and break a sweat right at home. The app, which is a platform to millions of videos across the world, allows you to view, comment, discover, and share healthy meal videos, and workout tutorials ranging from trends like HIIT to other ways of losing weight like aerobics. There is no better way to view HD YouTube clips in their full glory other than the size and picture quality your smart TV can offer.



Spotify

Crank up your home entertainment system and call your workout buddies over for an intensified Zumba session in your living room. How so? With *Spotify*, we say. Your smart TV may not be your go-to device for music streaming, but there isn't anything better than getting pumped from jamming out to a variety of workout playlists on your big screen amplified by your surround-sound system.



DailyBurn

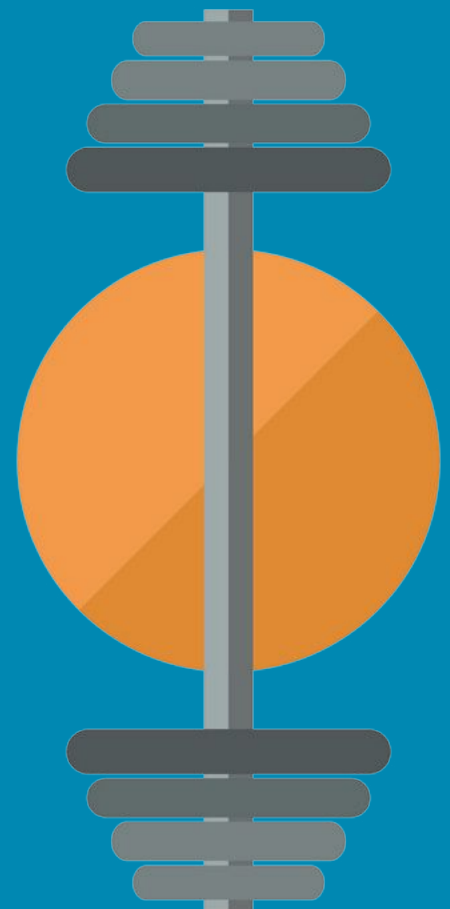
Make use of that extra space in your living room by cutting that flab off your tummy with *DailyBurn*. This app offers a variety of workouts to strengthen your core and burn calories while you're at it. May it be cardio, dance aerobics, and even yoga, you'll have it all in the convenience of one app. Apart from exercises, there are also

advice and nutrition guidance from trainers so you can stay in shape while keeping your body healthy.



Fitness VOD

This Samsung exclusive app delivers oodles of fitness videos that introduce efficient workout routines for you to benefit from in the comfort of your home. Like a personal trainer, this app will challenge you but at the same time turn difficult routines into a fun and exciting experience for you to achieve a firmer, stronger, leaner body minus the workout dread. It features focused workout VODs including abs, strength, toning, yoga, cardio, and a virtual Mirror function for avoiding confusion and a precise workout. You can also keep track of your progress via its Sync with Fitness service for workout history management. Plus it also allows you to calculate consumed calories for keeping your diet in check.



BYOE: BRING YOUR OWN ENTERTAINMENT on long plane, train, bus, and car rides

Words by Presy Alba

Long journeys are tiring. The long hours spent sitting down, sometimes in a cramped space, sleeping, and waiting for the next meal to be served gets tedious. No matter how much transport companies try to provide onboard entertainment, with the latest movies, a wide selection of TV shows, music, and games, it is sometimes not enough.

Bringing along your very own sources of entertainment will guarantee that you will have something to occupy yourself with throughout your journey, including those times when you are waiting in the pre-departure gates.

Although it will take some investment in terms of preparation time on your part, I guarantee that having your very own entertainment collection all throughout your trip will be worth it.

THE GADGETS

Tablet, Phablet, or Phone

You'll surely be bringing at least one of these anyway, and you'll be keeping it within reach all throughout your trip. Why not maximize its multifunctionality by making it your main entertainment device?

Headphones: Wired and Wireless

Bring along your favorite Bluetooth wireless headset for comfort. But as legs of your trip may be longer than your headphones' battery life, take a wired set as backup for when you need to recharge your wireless headset.

Charging Cables and Powerbank

Make sure that you pack the correct cables for your devices and that you have your powerbank fully charged. I recommend a powerbank with at least 10,000mAh, that way, you can recharge your phone twice and your tablet at least once during your trip.

External Hard Drive

If you intend to bring a whole lot of video and audio files, it would be practical to pack an external hard drive. I suggest getting something like WD's My Passport Wireless.

It has its own battery pack, so you can wirelessly stream audio and video to your phone or tablet for up to 10 hours on a single full charge, making it the perfect accessory. As an added bonus, you can also use it as storage for all the photos you'll take throughout your trip.



IMAGES FROM ETHNOGRAPHYMATTERS.NET

PREPARING CONTENT

Make your phone and tablet travel-ready by making sure that the operating system is updated. If your phone has limited storage space, make sure to transfer files that you won't need to your home computer.

Install and update all the apps you intend to use during your travels and make sure that you open each app at least once before departure just to make sure that they are fully loaded and ready.

When selecting what games to load on your phone and tablet, select the ones that will work even if you are not connected to the Internet or you'll find yourself in limbo without any game if those in your devices all require internet connection.

For Audible and Kindle users, make sure that the books you want to listen to or read are downloaded into your device before departure so that you won't get frustrated in case you encounter Wi-Fi trouble once you're on your way.

If you intend to read the latest issue of *Gadgets Magazine* on your *Magzter* app, also make sure that you download them before you leave.

If you plan to bring an external drive like the My Passport Wireless, I recommend that you load your videos, music, and eBooks (in pdf format) in the external drive so that you can bring as much as you want.

Bringing along your very own sources of entertainment will guarantee that you will have something to occupy yourself with throughout your journey, including those times when you are waiting in the pre-departure terminals.



TAKE US WITH YOU.



Download the buqo and MAGZTER apps now!



Download on the
App Store



GET IT ON
Google play

ARUGA

BY ROCKWELL

The Rockwell Lifestyle for the Global Guest at Aruga

The global traveler's search for a home away from home is finally over as Rockwell has ventured into hotel and leisure, bringing a luxurious serviced residence with their signature experience of an exceptional home and an unrivalled lifestyle in Aruga.

Providing warm, personal service complemented with superb amenities and utmost comfort, Aruga which also means "to nurture" in Filipino is poised to be the preferred destination of everyone and anyone from anywhere in the world.

A pleasurable lifestyle at Aruga

Aruga is housed within the grandeur of the Rockwell Center—an integral part of the Edades Tower and Garden Villas. These serviced

apartments are the first of their kind to rise within a community, creating a perfect harmony between exclusivity and convenience.

Its 114 rooms, tastefully designed in impeccable Asian contemporary style range from studio units, one-bedroom, and two-bedroom suites, that all include Rockwell's standard of premium finishes, a well-equipped kitchen, uninterrupted internet service, and a heavenly bed.

With foresight and an understanding of their guests, Aruga has prepared to meet the traveling businessman and his family's every need—an e-lounge for business, a fitness gym and swimming pool for wellness and play, a babysitting service for their peace of mind, and a grocery delivery service for their convenience, as well as its concierge and reception which are dedicated to entertain guests 24/7.



Aruga has made it its mission to offer its visitors and guests, who have only a few weeks or days in the country, top-of-the-line luxuries and the conveniences of living in Rockwell Center.

Refined tastes and experiences are at each guest's beck and call, with the newly opened Aruga Café that strives to please the palate with dishes influenced by cuisine from all over the globe. The Power Plant Mall, along with its line-up of

shopping and dining options, is a peaceful walk away, and offers dining choices such as Japanese crossover cuisine at Hajime, and New York's Dean and DeLuca for gourmet food.

A large appetite isn't the only thing Aruga is willing to satisfy. Deluxe, pampering services can also be found within the retail row at Maison by Nail Spa. The space is tastefully designed in eclectic-chic style, exuding a charming and cozy ambience for guests to feel relaxed and at home. An ideal urban retreat, Maison is given a plush, French fusion with traditional nail services, where stimulating aromatherapy, and a pampering massage meet a menu of the most stylish options from the retail care's best brands.

The Rockwell touch

As Rockwell reaches out to an even greater clientele, Aruga's elite and homegrown team is set to preserve the Rockwell magic in its new lineup of first-class establishments, hosting the global guest with a lifestyle of sincere service and a pleasurable experience.

Rockwell's signature brand of innovation, exclusivity, security, and lifestyle is sure to remain in Aruga's serviced apartments as the company continues to be a creator of world-class communities and extraordinary living.

Staying true to the meaning of its name, Aruga by Rockwell exceeds other serviced residences by treating its clients as more than guests, but as family that must be nurtured. While most hotel and leisure brands draw from global concepts, Aruga works with Filipinos at its helm, staying true to the nature of homegrown hospitality.





A NEW SPIN ON CLEANING

The Dyson V6 motor rotates 5 times faster than an F1 engine

Want to get a motor faster than an F1 engine? Here's something that just might make the old man's heart sing while making the lady of the house really happy.

The Dyson Digital Slim DC63 cordless vacuum, powered by a V6 motor, gives powerful suction to clean any room or car interiors. A newly configured motor head tackles particles and dirt on any surface. Its carbon fiber antistatic bristles reduce the build-up of static charge to help capture fine dust on hard floors. And for carpets, its nylon bristles do the work of trapping ground-in dirt on carpet.

Plus, 15 cyclones work in parallel across two tiers to capture even the finest particles. Each cyclone has been tuned to guarantee high centrifugal forces, up to 293,000G (to put that into perspective, humans can withstand G-forces of up to 50G), that captures debris and spins it straight into the bin.

High dust separation happens because there is an equal flow of air throughout the cyclone pack.

The DC62 is cordless, and is easy to maneuver on high, low, in-between, and hard to reach places.

You can also turn it into a handheld vacuum and take it to the car. Storage is simple, too. Docked in a wall-mounted station, the DC62 is always good to go.

The Dyson Digital Motor V6 sits at the core of Dyson cordless technology. The motor uses digital pulse technology and a neodymium magnet to rotate at a speed of up to 104,000 times a minute. Weighing just 218 grams it is able to generate 425 watts of power. It's powerful but lightweight and easy to maneuver.

James Dyson, British inventor, founder, and chief engineer at Dyson said, "Our digital motors create new technological possibilities. The V6 motor is faster and stronger than its predecessor with a higher power density, giving our cordless machines the performance of a mains powered machine, without being tethered to the wall."

The suggested retail price of Dyson DC62 is at PHP 33,500.



In 1993, James Dyson launched the world's first bagless vacuum cleaner because he was fed up with the lousy suction of the then prevailing cleaners. It was the result of 5,127 prototypes and 15 years of frustration and perseverance. Just 18 months after the launch, the DC01 became the bestselling vacuum in the UK. Since then, more than 4,000 in-house engineers at Dyson have helped to improve on outdated designs of everyday machines.

Dyson Digital Motor

- The Dyson digital motor V6, is one of the world's smallest fully integrated 1600W motors.
- Dyson digital motor V6 runs over twice as fast as a conventional full-size motor.

	Conventional full size motor	The Dyson digital motor
Size	91mm x 107mm	60mm x 66.5mm
Speed	50,000rpm	110,000rpm
Weight	970g	220g

• Conventional motors spin at 25,000rpm, F1 car engines at 19,000rpm and jet engines at 17,000rpm. The Dyson digital motor V6 spins at up to 110,000rpm.

• The Dyson V6 motor spins 5 times faster than a Formula one car and 10 times faster than a Boeing 747 engine.



Keeping it Cool with Hitachi's Newest Refrigerators

Words by Chris Hidalgo

Unless you fancy going every day, if not every meal, to the wet market (or the local grocery chain if that's more your style), getting a quality refrigerator to store your bulk purchases makes more sense in terms of time, effort, money, and of course, your health. Though there was a time when you had to play Russian roulette with a few days-old hunk of meat, we're now way past the eating-bacteria-laden-food stage. And with a tropical climate such as ours being the perfect breeding ground for unwelcome stomach guests, a refrigerator is a no-brainer.

However, it's not as simple as going to an appliance store and picking any box that goes cold. No, you need something that chills and freezes food effectively so your bills don't skyrocket. Added intuitiveness and creature comforts are fine bonuses but your main concern—as with any doodad really—is power efficiency.

That element is at the core of Hitachi's newest refrigerator products: the Luxury, Mirror/Glass, Big French, French Bottom Freezer, and Big2 series.

Featuring inverter and dual fan cooling technologies, Hitachi's latest wares are able to keep your grub sufficiently cooled while only using as much energy as needed. Specifically, the inverter compressor is able to adjust cooling power over a wide range to keep the box at optimal temperatures, while the two fans ensure that the freezer and refrigerator compartments are getting their bout of cold air.

Besides the two technologies, Hitachi's most advanced lineup boasts the Eco Thermo Sensor



which allows the on-board computer to address even the slightest temperature changes inside the fridge; Vegetable Compartment to keep leaves greener longer at a 90-percent humidity level; Touch Screen Controller to easily change fridge settings; Nano Titanium Filter to prevent bacteria and mold growth; 4L Tank Type Ice and Water Dispenser; long-lasting and eco-friendly LED Lights; roll-proof Bottle and Wine Shelf; and 18L of Extra Storage Space near the door ice bank.

Additionally, the Luxury series has the Vacuum Isolation Panel for improved heat insulation; Eco Monitoring Sensor which reduces power consumption whenever the fridge is not in use; and Auto Door feature which allows for touch- and swipe-enabled door opening.

Far from looking like janky monoliths, these refrigerators from Hitachi are sleek and stylish, with design aesthetics allowing them to fit into any modern kitchen. Though each product has a different cabin layout from the others, rest assured that they can all help turn your next meal into a five-star feast.

Keeping your Home Entertainment System Green

Words by Chris Noel Hidalgo | Art by Leng Desuasido

With all the speakers, displays, cooling systems, lights, and other fancy components in a home entertainment system, you'd be lucky if your electric bill remains in the four digits. There's no comparison to an immersive, in-your-face audiovisual delight, but there's no parallel to a wallet-breaking consumption statement either. Good thing there's a lot you can do to ease some load off the national grid. Some are free, and some will require a hefty investment, but all in the long run will equate to a significant sum of cash back in your pocket. In the end, isn't a fat wallet what we all want?

Praise the Sun!

While the chance to go completely off-grid 24/7 isn't here yet, you can pretty much binge-watch movies for 16 hours a day without having your electric meter move one inch. All you need are a couple hundred thousand Pesos investment in a solar panel system and you can blast everything on full without worrying about the bills. Though it seems like a bank-breaking purchase now, you'll quickly recoup the costs in a couple of years. Some electric companies are also buying electricity surplus from households so if you find yourself having more solar power than you need (good job!), you can sell it to them and see even lower electric bills.

Don't chill out. Blow yourself away

Any air conditioner units—even those with efficiency certificates—occupy the top of a regular household's electric consumption pyramid, and hang out at the top with your refrigerator. If it's particularly chilly (the few perks of the rainy season), it makes more sense to circulate air using a fan. Open your windows—just make sure that yours has a screen so bugs can't enter—so fresher air can make its rounds in your house. You'll get almost the same benefits as an A/C minus the exorbitant wattage.

Use smart power strips

If you're too lazy to get up and manually unplug everything—let's face it, that's a lot of bending over—you should invest in a power strip that does a lot more than just cut supply to your tech. There are some power strips out there that automatically prevents anything plugged in from drawing power when in standby mode. There are also some with built-in surge protectors and voltage regulators so your appliances are protected from any spikes and sags in electricity. And if you frequently forget to turn off everything when you leave the house, there are some really smart ones that work via Wi-Fi so you can control everything from your smartphone.

Some TVs are more efficient than others

The best TV for your entertainment system is one that's not too big for your room/needs, with LCD/LED display technology, stress-tested to be long-lasting, and with the Energy Star label. For best results, see to it that all the appliances in your hideout, including the air conditioner, fans, speakers, lights, optical media drives, and consoles, have the Star on them. That label ensures that the products don't use more electricity than they need. The more Stars slapped on there, the better.

Salamangka Resort goes solar with Solenergy

Fun in the sun, run by the sun.

Salamangka Beach and Dive Resort has just gone off-grid as one of the country's first self-sustaining retreats. The micro-grid resort project affirms Salamangka's commitment to greener operations, and according to owner and general manager Felix Prager, is crucial to their goal of elevating the "resort to the highest possible standards." Prager added that running on a sustainable source of power is key towards harboring an eco-friendly resort.

With a portfolio composed of several power system solutions, Solenergy Systems Inc. was employed to engineer and install a comprehensive 37kWp/4800Ah hybrid solar system for Salamangka's essential facilities. Solenergy also implemented an uninterruptible power solution to counteract grid fluctuations that may damage resort amenities. The final solar system provides up to 95-percent of the resort's electricity needs, helping it consistently give a five-star experience to guests.

The off-grid system is composed of specially ordered 148 Solarworld Black PV panels, power control system made by Swiss manufacturer

Studer Innotec, and grid inverters built by Germany-based Steca. These high-quality and reliable tier-1 components were stress-tested for maximum performance and longevity. For added peace of mind, Solenergy has installed a remote monitoring solution so engineers can view and optimize the system all the way from their Makati office.

"This is a major investment and we look forward to save on costs in the long run," Prager beamed. Significant savings and a stable power source are just a few benefits of what an off-grid or hybrid power system can offer to establishments in the hotel and tourism industry.



Salamangka Beach and Dive Resort fulfils its commitment to a greener world with the completion of one of the first true micro-grid resort projects in the Philippines. Energized last March 2015, going off-grid was just one of the many solutions Solenergy delivered for this remote island resort.



The resort's battery room is loaded with 4800Ah stored power. The batteries are connected to advanced off-grid components from Swiss manufacturer Studer Innotec and German-made Steca grid inverters.



As requested by the owners of Salamangka, Solenergy installed 148 SolarWorld black PV modules. The black solar panels were specially ordered from Germany to aesthetically compliment the resort's design.



Founded in 2012, Solenergy Systems Inc. aims to provide the best solar/ photovoltaic systems to enterprises at competitive prices. They've provided renewable energy to clients across the archipelago, including Assumption College, Makati; 8 Rockwell, Makati; Panay Energy Development Corporation; TIPCO Estates Corporation; Kraft Foods Mondelez; Land Bank of the Philippines; DuPont Pioneer; Grace Christian College; International School Manila; and Stairway Foundation, Puerto Galera.

Salamangka Beach and Dive Resort is nestled in the coastline of Siquijor Island. This tourism-accredited escape has 21 fully-furnished guest rooms composed of modern Garden Cottages and Ocean View Loft Rooms. It features resort-wide Wi-Fi, outdoor pool, fitness center, spa services, and an open air restaurant. Resort staff are available 24/7.

The resort is surrounded by numerous must-see destinations such as Mount Bandilaan National Park, Paliton Beach, and 42 known dive sites.

Salamangka provides top-notch scuba diving services for both beginners and veterans, with the entire diving staff accredited and certified by the Professional Association of Diving Instructors, Scuba Schools International, and Professional Scuba Association International.

For more information about Salamangka, you can go to their website at www.salamangkaresort.com, call them through +63917-588-6873, or e-mail them at info@salamangkaresort.com.



This month on BulletPoints, we're going to be looking at UDMC, a local firearms manufacturer that, thanks to a Joint Venture agreement, aims to supply the AFP, PNP, Philippine Coast Guard, and other law enforcement agencies access to Colt M4s. Lots of our friends were asking about the company, so we got to have a word with the CEO of UDMC, Gene Cariño, to give us a quick background on United Defense Manufacturing Corporation.

Though people who watch the local firearms scene closely know of your company, for others, this might be the first time they hear about UDMC. Could you give our readers a quick background of the company?

The company was incorporated in 2006 as a "hobby" for me since I was getting stressed out with my main stream business in third-party logistics company. As a hobby, I wanted to have a legitimate way of customizing handguns and rifles through basic machining and gunsmithing. It was then that I and my buddies secured permits and licenses from the PNP. For the period 2006-2008, I was playing around fixing and customizing guns owned by friends until I grew tired of the challenge, so in 2009, we secured a License to Operate as a manufacturer of both high-powered rifles and pistols which, by my understanding, was the first legitimate company to take the assault rifle manufacturing in the Philippines seriously, save for the former Elitool back in the 1960's. In 2010, we started buying sophisticated CNC

machines and started producing some parts of the AR rifle. Eventually, the "some parts" became "many parts" until we are now able to produce the rifles as a complete unit in two calibers: 5.56 x 45mm (an M4 derivative) and 7.62 x 51mm (an M110 derivative).

UDMC first entered the public consciousness thanks to the PVAR Rifle, and its participation in local Armed Forces trials. Could you tell us the innovations and advantages gas piston technology brings to the market?

The PVAR rifle of UDMC was developed in conjunction with the needs of our Filipino Navy SEALs (Naval Special Operations Group). Our SEALs usually operate in salty and murky waters. The standard carbines which they were using cannot withstand their combat environment as, it has the propensity to overheat when fired in sustained full auto. When our SEALs emerge from sea or murky waters, they have to first drain

the water (costing precious seconds) from their standard carbines before commence firing. If not, and they commence firing immediately upon surfacing, the upper assembly of the carbine would blow. This can spell life and death in a real sense for our SEALs.

In a nutshell, we were tasked by the NAVSOG to develop a rifle that will eliminate all the problems mentioned. From 2010 up to the early part of 2012, we did extensive Research and Development with the NAVSOG, and finally on April 2012, the Navsog Commander gave the PVAR the thumbs up. The full Test and Evaluation Report signed by the Navsog Commander, Capt Rommel Galang can be found on our website www.udmc-weapons.com under "Technology." Subsequently, the Commander of the Navy's Philippine Fleet, then Rear Admiral Jose Luis Alano, endorsed the project to the Flag Officer-in-Command, Vice Admiral Alexander Pama. Subsequently, RADM Alano was promoted to Vice Admiral and became FOIC himself. But the Navy never got the opportunity to buy the PVAR rifles as complete brand new rifles since the



Government Procurement Act, R.A. 9184 prohibits direct contracting.

Unfortunately, since UDMC was a baby at that point in time and had no track record required by the law, the procurement of the PVAR's by the Phil Navy never materialized. We, however, converted to the PVAR system about a dozen old M16A1's which were too old and were in fact ready for de-milling at that point in time though that was just about it. Today, however, we sell the PVARs to individuals connected with the AFP, PNP, PCG and other LEAs. The civilians are also buying our PVAR's. Further, we had exported the PVARs to foreign security contractors for Maritime Security Operations (MARSEC) in guarding merchant vessels against pirates in the high seas.

What variants are available from UDMC, and what can the average citizen own?

Let us forget about the PVARs for a while. In our opinion, the PVAR is not required for use by the soldiers, police and other law enforcers, simply because their fighting environment is different from the SEALs. Specially for civilians, the PVAR is not a necessity. We have another variant which is only about 60% the price of a PVAR. This is the Direct Gas Impingement System (DGIS), the old reliable system invented by Eugene Stoner that is much simpler and cheaper to produce. This variant in caliber 5.56mm NATO is what we recommend to civilians. It is referred to as the S5-DGIS, priced at P100,000 which is already VAT-inclusive. However, under the Comprehensive Gun Control Act, R.A. 10591, rifles licensed in the name of individuals (not AFP, PNP, etc.) can only be approved if the rifle is in semi-automatic (not select fire for full auto). This means that even if you are a general or admiral in the active service, you can only own a semi-automatic rifle since the license will be in your name. Incidentally, we will also be launching this year our AR-22LR, right you are, it will be in caliber .22 long rifle which is now becoming a craze worldwide.



Could you share a little bit about your manufacturing process?

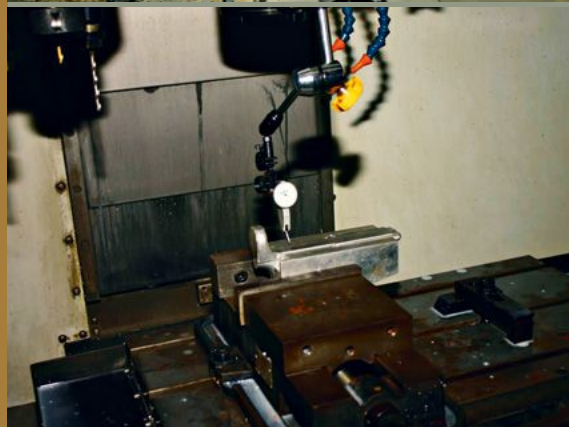
We use the French software, Dassault Systemes (also used in aerospace designing), for our 3D designing and also for CNC programming. We use both CNC fully computerized machines and NC semi-computerized machines for certain operations. Not a single part is made in one machine though. It goes from one machine to another and sometimes we also use conventional machines until we finish each part. The advantage of CNC machining is that we can guarantee "repeatability" of dimension whether we produce 100 pieces or 10,000 pieces of each part. We are ISO-certified and follow manufacturing processes and procedures by the book as part of our Quality Management System. Our upper and lower receivers are milled from aircraft aluminum forgings called T6-7075. Such forgings came from Ferndale Michigan, near Detroit where the automotive industry is in the recovery phase. Our barrels use either Stainless Steel 416 ordnance grade or Premium-grade chrome moly with the raw material blanks coming from Dikar Bergara in Spain where we also happen to be their marketing agent and distributor for the whole of Asia-Pacific.

You're best known for your rifles, but UDMC also makes handguns. Could you tell us a little about your handgun offerings? What separates your pistols from those made by other local manufacturers?

Our pistols use slides, barrels and frames which we milled from billets rather than castings. Casting of parts is the cheapest way to produce parts, but we do not want to produce pistols in mass quantities since we want it to be Premium in quality. Our barrels are also turned and finished using blanking materials for Dikar Bergara which we machine into several calibers: 9mm, .40 and .45 all in Stainless Steel 416 ordnance grade.

When you buy our pistols, it will be "fully loaded" and nothing else to gunsmith or tune up as it comes out of the box as a competition gun already. The price is therefore a little pricey but still cheaper than if it were made by a gunsmith. We have our 1911-platform pistols in both single stack and high capacity.

We were recently also appointed by Colt's Manufacturing Company LLC and SME Ordnance Sdn Bhd to market their products in the Philippines. Colt and SME has also a partnership in Malaysia which makes it ideal for them to jump over to the Philippines using UDMC as partner and jump off point. But last year, we started marketing the Night Fight System of NIVISYS LLC which consists of night visions devices, thermal imaging and infrared laser devices. Since Nivisys uses the electron imaging intensifying tubes of L-3 Warrior systems, we also represent the marketing the brand of L-3 Warrior in the Philippines. Combined, the turnover of Nivisys and L-3 is roughly US\$13 billion a year.



Next month, we'll take a closer look at some of the hardware UDMC has to offer. Watch this space.



Words by Jose Alvarez

Developer: Activision Blizzard | Publisher: Activision Blizzard | Platforms: PC, OS X

The multiplayer online battle arena (MOBA) genre is something I haven't paid too much attention to in the past few years. In that time, they have become the center of e-sports and are also the games that spawned intensive competition in e-sports as well. While they pale in comparison to the multi-billion dollar nature of traditional sports such as basketball and football, the 2014 edition of the *Defense of the Ancients 2* international championship in Seattle, Washington had a prize pool of almost USD 11 million.

While games such as *League of Legends* and *Defense of the Ancients 2* (DOTA 2) have long defined the genre, *Heroes of the Storm* is Blizzard's response to the creations of Riot Games and Valve, respectively.

While the game has been in beta for several months, it finally got its full release on June 2. Although Blizzard itself doesn't classify the game as a MOBA, the game is similar to *League* and *DOTA 2*.

"We fully feel like we're making something a little bit different and a little bit new," said Dustin Browder, game director of *Heroes of the Storm*. "We felt like the hero brawler was a better name for

"We felt like the hero brawler was a better name for the game we were making, but whatever anybody wants to call the game is totally cool."



the game we were making, but whatever anybody wants to call the game is totally cool."

The game is free—all you need to do is install **Battle.net** onto your desktop, install the game, and start playing. While a random selection of heroes are available each week, you can add characters to your collection by either paying gold for them, which you earn by leveling up your account, characters, or winning matches, or purchasing characters outright with real money. You can also

purchase different character skins, mounts, and even special bundles or stimpacks (which give extra gold and experience with each match) with real money as well. However, the effects of the skins and mounts are purely cosmetic in nature.

In *Heroes*, you need to start out playing the tutorial, which introduces you to the game's basic controls, movement, and abilities. You can pick characters from other Blizzard games such as *World of Warcraft*, *Starcraft* and *Diablo*. The *Heroes*

tournament *Heroes of the Dorm*, which involved college teams from all around the United States, made the game known nationwide when it was broadcasted on ESPN 2 back in April, and also made the cover of the sports magazine recently, which means that e-sports are finally being recognized by television networks out there rather than being confined to someone's Twitch stream.

Heroes' system requirements aren't too taxing (4GB RAM recommended, 10GB of hard drive space, and at least Windows 7, an Intel Core 2 Duo processor and Intel HD Graphics 3000), which means the game is accessible to those who don't have a computer or laptop specifically dedicated to gaming. The concept of MOBAs is simple: you play a match against either an AI opponent or other players in a 5v5 setting on a map. Each map has its own objectives and you work as a team to not only kill the other players but to also fulfill the map objectives which can give your team an edge in battle. There are usually three lanes—top, middle, and bottom, and players decide where they want to go before the match starts.

Destroying enemy buildings, AI-controlled players (known as minions), other players, or unlocking map objectives are what helps your team gain experience to level up. Leveling up allows your characters to access new abilities to use against your enemies. You start out with at least several moves, and you can pick from an array of abilities that each have a cooldown. One thing every character has is an ultimate attack, which is unlockable at level 10. The cooldown time on the ultimate attack is long, so it should only be used when your enemies (for damage) and allies (for healing) are all clustered in one area.

There are four different categories of players. The warrior is the "tank" class and often fills up one lane, generally soaking damage from other players and can survive a long time. Assassins, which can either be melee or ranged, are used to kill AI opponents and player opponents and also have some crowd control capabilities (slowing, stunning, or rooting enemies in place). Then there are supports, who buff and heal your party members and also have some crowd control abilities as well. Specialists don't fit any role and are used depending on a team's strategy. Some specialists, such as Abathur, can inhabit friendly players, minions or structures, while others, such as Murky, are used for annoyance purposes. Specialists are versatile and can be the extra push a team needs to attain victory.

At the 2015 Electronic Entertainment Expo, the expansion pack *Eternal Conflict* was revealed and public testing started on June 30. Several new characters were introduced, mostly from the *Diablo* series of games, such as Leoric the Skeleton King and the Monk. Several other new concepts, such as treasure goblins, also appeared on maps granting players gold. A new *Diablo*-themed map was also made available.

The billion-dollar video gaming industry is getting a huge boost from games like *Heroes*. Even though the "freemium" (free to play at first, but with in-game purchases after) model has been criticized before, it is starting to become the norm in the MOBA space. If you have friends who also play the game, you can bet that there will be hours of action-packed fun ahead.

Considerations For Securing the Home Office

As increasing numbers of employees work from home, organizations often overlook the security needs of remote workers.



Telework predates the BYOD phenomenon by decades. Despite Yahoo!'s move to the contrary, many organizations are shrinking their office spaces and expanding their employees' ability to work from home. Employees value the flexibility and the lack of a commute, while employers value lower operating costs and workers working extended hours. Even companies that don't encourage telework specifically frequently have employees working remotely, whether for travel, to accommodate a sick child, or simply to save some extra hours of productivity.

Market research firm, Gartner, even confirmed in a June 2014 study that the desktop computer is, in fact, not dead. Of the 40 percent of respondents who reported using personal devices for work, the most common device was a desktop PC, presumably in a home office. The bottom line for all of this, though, is that organizations need to take the security of their employees' home offices seriously.

Let's take a step back and think about what actually constitutes a modern home office. For some, it's clearly a space in the home, quite possibly occupied by a desktop computer discarded by the kids in favor of a shiny new i-Device. For others, it might be a desk in the local library or a comfy wing chair at their local coffee house and be accessible to all family. In our exceptionally mobile world, our "home offices" can literally be anywhere that isn't company property.

What this means is that "securing the home office" is really about taking a holistic approach to endpoint security and remote access rather than making sure that employees have something more than WEP securing their wireless routers at home. Here are some critical best practices for creating secure remote work environments, wherever they might be:

1. Use a VPN

This is a big one. No matter how an employee accesses corporate resources, if done with a correctly implemented VPN tunnel, content moving to and from employee resources is secure. There are even VPNs offered as a service

to secure mobile sessions over public WiFi, but building VPNs under corporate control is easy, cost-effective, and ultimately safer than relying on VPNs in the public cloud.

2. Enforce client antivirus installation and updates

Multi-layered approaches to security are critical to ensuring their effectiveness, both within corporate networks and outside of them. At the same time, it can be difficult to ask users to protect themselves or their employers' networks. Running antivirus updates and OS patches tends to fall fairly low on their list of priorities so implementing services that enforce automatic updates on clients outside of corporate networks is a must for remote workers.

3. Prevent the use of consumer cloud storage products

As consumer cloud storage products like Dropbox and Google Drive have become more full-featured and easy to use, it becomes very tempting for users to simply upload work files to the cloud, alongside Grandma's pumpkin pie recipe and pictures from last summer's vacation. Unfortunately, when employees leave a company, there is no way for employers to ensure that corporate assets don't stay on that desktop computer in the ex-employee's home office. Preventing access to these services while employees are on the network provides a layer of protection and control, not to mention regulatory compliance for many industries.

4. Provide platforms that avoid the use of removable media and facilitate secure collaboration

Of course, if users can't upload their files to their personal cloud-based storage account, they'll be tempted to load them onto flash drives or other removable media to access them at home. Well-publicized vulnerabilities on these types of media, though, make this a dangerous prospect. The solution? Provide business-grade tools for secure file sync and share and enterprise collaboration so the temptation of thumb drives and cloud storage are easy to resist.

5. Wherever possible, secure the environment

While it isn't possible to go to every users' home to deploy an access point, and centrally manage them as one can do in a corporate network with optimized security settings, it is possible to require home office users to implement strong encryption on their home routers. Even if that means stepping a user through the setup or offering 4G hotspots at a discount to employees (that use encryption by default), it makes sense to take steps to ensure a relative degree of security on home networks.

6. Security begins with education

Security pros and hackers aren't born with deep security and networking expertise—why should we expect employees to be automatically savvy enough to avoid the latest phishing scheme or bit of malware?

Unfortunately, that's all too often the mindset for many organizations, the majority of which rely on firewalls, intrusion prevention systems, and antimalware software to protect their networks but ignore the real weak link in the security chain: users. Even large organizations with strong security measures have been brought down by unwitting users who fell for sophisticated social engineering and disclosed login credentials or introduced malware onto the network.

6 ½. Have a policy

This is the "½ a consideration" because it seems as if it should go without saying. But recent research suggests that a lot of organizations have no written policy on personal devices, home offices, or remote access to company networks and assets. Perhaps this should have been #1 - good, well-thought out policies that both IT and employees can live with is a cornerstone of good security. To implement policy with technology, companies need the underlying policy.



GUEST COLUMNIST JEFF CASTILLO
Country Manager Fortinet Philippines

Fortinet protects the most valuable assets of some of the largest enterprise, service provider and government organizations across the globe. The company's fast, secure, and global cyber security solutions provide broad, high-performance protection against dynamic security threats while simplifying the IT infrastructure. They are strengthened by the industry's highest level of threat research, intelligence and analytics. Unlike pure-play network security providers, Fortinet can solve organizations' most important security challenges, whether in networked, application or mobile environments—be it virtualized/cloud or physical. More than 210,000 customers worldwide, including some of the largest and most complex organizations, trust Fortinet to protect their brands. Learn more at <http://www.fortinet.com>, the Fortinet Blog—or FortiGuard Labs.

A look inside Voyager Innovations' HQ

If you ask your everyday professional to describe an office, words that would probably flow out of his mouth will range from bland sheets of plain paper, staplers, cubicles, photocopiers, deadlines, to stress. But have them step inside the office of Voyager Innovations—a subsidiary of Smart Communications, Inc. (Smart) and digital arm of PLDT—and they'd probably think otherwise.

The workplace of Voyager Innovations in Ortigas could easily transport you to the heart of Silicon Valley—home to tech companies such as Google and Facebook—as it has an atmosphere that's meant to stir employees' creative juices and allow them to thrive on the cutting edge of technology.

Not your average workplace

Upon entering the establishment, you can tell right off the bat that this isn't your regular workplace. To promote collaboration between co-workers, the office floorplan is completely open. This basically means that there is not a single office room; managers sit with their team members and cubicles that separate executives are deliberately kept low to foster interaction and cooperation without borders.

Serving as outlets for employee relaxation, installed within the office are ping pong tables, multiple lounge areas, and wall art. Also, waveboards are available for use just when employees feel like traveling on wheels around the office.



What's even more interesting is that the whole team had an active role in the creation of the entire workplace; meeting rooms are designed and decorated after a particular theme, and each coming from the name of a Filipino invention or inventor. The support beams, on the other hand, are adorned with framed objects that employees have donated, which injects a feeling of familiarity and home to the place.

Another demonstration of how significant thought went into every detail of the office, user experience experts from the product team designed all of the walls in the office of which they included a freedom wall, where employees are free to write whatever they want. Elsewhere, there is a photo wall, where some of Voyager's most significant milestones are displayed.

Perks? It's more fun in Voyager Innovations

Apart from a fun physical environment, perks and policies are there to empower employees, such as flexitime, breakfast and fruit served daily, casual dresscode, and quarterly celebrations of Voyager milestones. Further building camaraderie is a gathering called iShare in which employees are free to share their life's passion.

As for overseas traveling perks, all employees, including executives and managers, take economy when flying to international conferences and meetings. The purpose behind this is to allow more people to travel per year for training. Upon returning to the Voyager HQ, they then share their learnings with their team members.

One interesting employee policy is borrowed from Google's playbook. All full-time employees get what is called 10-percent time. For 10-percent of their work-time, which would be 4 hours a week or a half day of one full workday, employees take on special projects outside of their core responsibilities that they feel are imperative to accomplish.

Take Nigel Maranan who handles content marketing and public relations for SafeZone, as an example. He spearheaded the development of the main Voyager website, leading its creative direction and overall messaging. He also created and institutionalized Voyager's internship program, so that it can better meet the needs of students looking to gain work experience in an ever-shifting digital landscape.



The accelerator has improved the time to market for all its assets, thanks to culture cultivated within Voyager Innovations. This reduced the industry average time of video asset creation from two months to one week and left behind marketing collaterals from two months to one week.

Notably, Voyager Innovations is able to launch websites in as little as two weeks, which is blazing fast in comparison to industry average time of three months. Testament to the company's fast and quality outputs are websites, platforms, and apps that are already shining in their respective spaces.

Among their well-known products are SafeZone—provides free data access to mobile subscribers; TackThis—online store creator; Takatack—largest online e-commerce store in the Philippines; Smart Padala—domestic remittance provider; and the soon-to-launch fin-tech platform PayMaya.

Benjie Fernandez, managing director of Voyager Innovations said, "Would we have reached these milestones, without the office being the way it is? Undoubtedly, yes. But we would not have been able to do it as fast, nor as resource efficient, without our workplace and culture being designed the way it is. Our work environment allows us to focus on the only thing that matters: execution."



Microsoft Strengthens NGO impact with the Power of the Cloud

Words by Presy Alba

Microsoft Philippines, with the support of Techsoup Asia (www.techsoup.asia), gathered over 120 non-profits from around the country for its annual NGO Connection Day last 22 June 2015. The objective was to discuss how Microsoft could help scale up and strengthen NGO operations and expand outreach impact through technology.

The NGO Connection Day, as Microsoft-PH corporate citizenship specialist Geo Corneby explained in one of the sessions, is only one of many activities and events under the Tech4Good Program of Microsoft Corporate Citizenship.

Raul Cortez, Microsoft-PH legal and corporate affairs director explained it so aptly: "At Microsoft, we are committed to support nonprofits with easy access to technology and tools that can help them become more efficient in accelerating their social impact and realize their full potential. Events like NGO Connection Day open conversations and opportunities for us to further contribute to their work."

During the plenary, Gawad Kalinga (GK) presented a case study of how their organization has benefited from the use of Office 365 for Nonprofits and its accompanying services. GK IT head Jersey Miranda shared how they have reduced costs and streamlined their processes using Sharepoint for paperless transactions like travel and/or leave requests, payment requests, and liquidation of expenses—all done online, and from anywhere in the country. He said that they don't even have a fax machine in their office anymore.

In the roundtable discussion, GK head of corporate shared services Issa Cuevas-Santos also mentioned that collaborating has become easy as Microsoft Sharepoint allows users to route documents to specific persons so they could comment and/or edit from anywhere. Sharepoint allows each one to check-in/check-out the documents, minimizing the creation of duplicate or conflicting versions—and ultimately making them accomplish more for less time and less cost.

France Boiser of Student Catholic Action of the Philippines (SCAP) also shared how his organization has saved on travel costs by conducting more online meetings with his field volunteers over Skype for Business, which also allows him to make powerpoint presentations online. Plus, with the business-class email, they now use their registered domain @scaphilippines.org on their email address.

Office 365 for non-profits is available under two plans:

E1 for Charities is a totally free donated plan for unlimited number of users and includes access to online versions of Office, business class email service (may be used with your own registered domain) with up to 50GB inbox per user, unlimited online meetings including use of Skype for Business, 1TB storage per user on OneDrive, Corporate Social Media for easier communication

within the organization, Corporate Video Portal and intranet file sharing and collaboration using Microsoft Sharepoint services.

E3 for Charities is available at the super discounted subscription of USD 4.50/month per user for an unlimited number of users that includes all the E1 features plus Office Suites for desktops (Office 2013 now, and an automatic upgrade to Office 2016 once it is released), enterprise management of apps with group policies, telemetry and shared computer settings, and Office for mobile devices including iOS and Android.



In the Philippines and Southeast Asia, NGOs and other nonprofits can avail of the free or discounted packages of Office 365 for Nonprofits (and other software licenses) via TechSoup Asia (www.techsoup.asia)—all you need to do is sign up to create a user login, fill-in the online form, and submit any one of the following documents—SEC Registration, BIR Tax Exemption Form, or PCNC Registration—to prove that your organization is a legitimate nonprofit organization, and TechSoup's Philippine agent Jed Abao will let you know how you can start taking advantage of the resources available for nonprofits at the TechSoup Portal.

REV: an interactive self-ordering device for the F&B industry



The commercial deployment of REV—an interactive self-ordering tablet—was recently announced by the Ministry of Food (MOF), a chain of restaurants in Singapore. Developed by Cuscapi Berhad, REV is designed to help food and beverage (F&B) operators to revolutionize the way they interact with their customers, using technology to enhance customer experience whilst managing their costs more efficiently and enhancing revenue.

The REV tablet comes with various interactive features which are designed to be durable and user-friendly, providing customers with a fun and easy method of ordering, as opposed to the traditional way of waiters taking orders and putting food on the table. F&B operators can also quickly and cost-effectively power loyalty programs, showcase offers, and drive cross-selling initiatives.

MOF chief operating officer Lee Hon Tat said, "The deployment of Cuscapi's REV has brought with it positive changes in multiple aspects of our restaurants. Our patrons have also taken to REV very quickly. These are the tech-savvy, tech-embracing and demanding patrons who are always on the lookout for something new and trendy."

"We have also experienced an increase in revenue as people tend to order more because of the convenience in using the REV tablet. Our waiters on the other hand, have more time to look after the needs of our guests and play the role of an adviser as opposed to being just order takers. Furthermore, REV has enabled us to streamline our operations, and this has worked out fantastically for us and our guests," he added.

Cuscapi chief executive officer Eugene Ng said, "Our teams have worked together closely and gathered valuable feedback which has now

enabled us to develop a more enhanced version of REV. This version, which is version 2.1, is an upgrade from the initial version 1.0 and comes with an interactive Avatar function which is set to make the ordering process a breeze."

REV 2.1

REV has undergone a series of enhancements since the pilot implementation of version 1.0 in 2013. The new REV 2.1 features a first of its kind

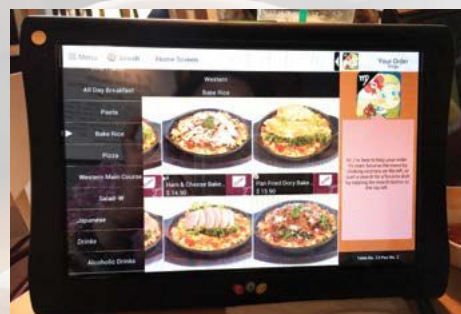
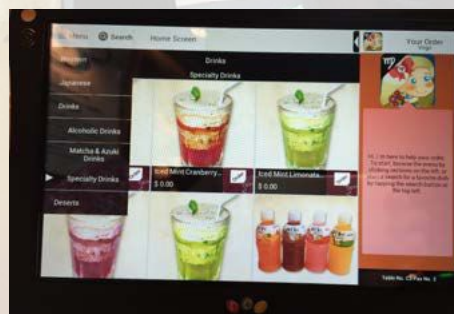
interactive avatar function which guides patrons every step of the way through the ordering process. The avatar also guides the customers to proceed with payments and recommends best sellers, providing a wholesome and empowering user experience to diners.

"We understand that each customer is unique and will have different preferences. This is where the customized menu options come into play. Whether they want their noodles without onions, extra chili with their fries or less sugar in their coffee, this can all be done with just a touch of the finger," added Ng.

For those coming in large groups, the multi-tablet function helps streamline the ordering process without any hassle. Diners can place their orders using multiple tablets but have their bills combined into one to ease the payment process.

Cuscapi strongly believes that customers are the key to any restaurant's success. They see the need to enhance customer experience at any given cost, to generate new customers, and to foster loyalty. Cuscapi will now work towards enhancing the existing version 2.1 to include table payments and to drive customer loyalty programs.

Cuscapi Berhad, with its headquarters in Malaysia, has a presence in 9 countries worldwide. It is Asia's leading F&B business management solutions provider, offering a comprehensive range of integrated solutions for the industry. The company has developed its own business management solutions software for notable names in the F&B industry, such as, Starbucks, McDonalds and KFC. In the Philippines, one of Cuscapi's clients is the Max's group of companies.



Ready your PC for school with Asus' "Study Hard, Play Hard" promo



Your back-to-school gear wouldn't be complete without a beastly PC taking care of both your academic and entertainment requirements. If you're looking for a few parts to sweeten up your rig, Asus is holding the "Study Hard, Play Hard" bundle promo wherein customers will receive a complimentary accessory for every purchase of specific Asus motherboards paired with specific graphics cards. Three packages are available until

July 31 in select dealers throughout the country.

Power users can get the Power Package containing either the Asus Sabertooth Z97 Mark 1 or Mark S motherboard, and an Asus Strix GTX 980 graphics card for a future-proof build that can easily handle graphics-intensive tasks. The pair comes with an Asus Strix Claw gaming mouse.

The Z97 Sabertooth Mark 1 is priced at PHP 12,630; the Z97 Sabertooth Mark S at PHP 16,390; and the Strix GTX 980 OC at PHP 33,820.

If you're looking to join the PC Master Race and want a very capable build that doesn't break the bank, you can get the Gamer Package with either the H97-Pro Gamer or A88X-Gamer bundled with the surprisingly powerful Strix GTX 750 Ti OC (available in 2GB and 4GB VRAM variants). You'll get a complimentary HS-W1 Wireless Headset for the combo.

The Asus H97-Pro Gamer is tagged at PHP 6,350; the A88X-Gamer at PHP 5,560; the Strix GTX 750 Ti OC (2GB) at PHP 8,150; and the Strix GTX 750 Ti OC (4GB) at PHP 10,150.

If you need a PC for the basics like browsing, word processing, and the occasional movie and light gaming, then you can get the bang for your buck Value Set. In it is either the B85-Pro Gamer or B85M-Gamer, and the GT730 graphics card.

An Asus RT-N10+ wireless router will be thrown in with the set.

The B85-Pro Gamer retails for PHP 4,990; the ASUS B85M-Gamer for PHP 3,990; and the ASUS GT730 (2GB) for PHP 2,700.

The Asus Z97 Sabertooth comes with a 5-year warranty, while all other Asus mobos and graphics cards come with a 3-year warranty.

Harman/Kardon and JBL opens Fairview store

Beyond Innovations Inc., the Harman group's exclusive Philippine distributor, has opened the Harman/Kardon-JBL store in the Ayala Fairview Terraces mall in Fairview, Quezon City. It joins Harman's other branches in SM Megamall, SM North EDSA, TriNoma, and Bonifacio High Street.

Gracing the store launch were Hans Tan, president of Beyond Innovations Inc.; Lauro Secreto, brand activation manager of Harman International; and actress Janine Gutierrez.

The newest hub introduces the brand's high-end audio, visual, and infotainment systems to residents in the Northern Manila area. The launch day also saw customers being treated to exclusive discounts, raffles, free system calibrations, and trade-in schemes.

The Harman/Kardon-JBL showroom carries a number of the known Harman brands including JBL, AKG, Harman/Kardon, and Infinity. The award-winning product lineup encompasses portable and home speakers, soundbars, audio/video receivers, and headphones, all with superb sound outputs the brand has been known for.

Like other Harman stores, the Fairview outlet offers actual hands-on demos of various products and setups, providing the best experience for



customers wanting to get the most out of their audio-visual systems. It is located at the third level of Fairview Terraces, and can be contacted through (02)958-5600.

Epson partners with Photogs for a Cause

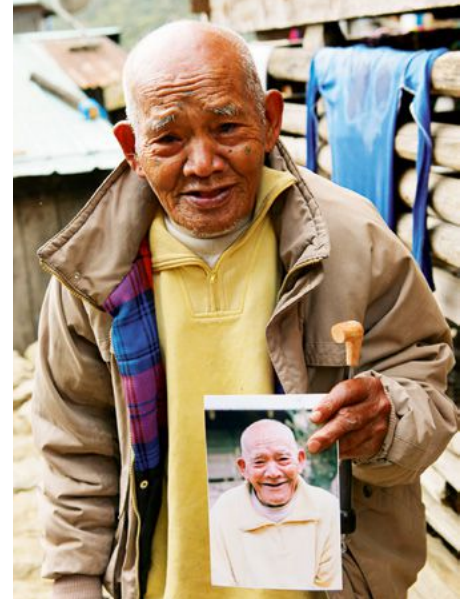
Earlier this year, Photogs For A Cause (PFAC), a group of professional photographers who work for NGOs free of charge, journeyed to the mountains of Kalinga to visit Barangay Buscalan. Besides documenting the area's new birthing facility, PFAC also brought basic supplies as they took portraits of the community's residents. The photos were then printed by an Epson L800 genuine ink tank system.

"It's a simple gift, and yet the joy that they exhibited upon receiving their photos can't be quantified," said Donna Ferro, head of Epson Philippines' Marcom and PR. "These are people who have never owned a photo, and so this was incredibly precious for them," added Ferro.

"This is not the first time that people have come here and take their photos. The visitors always say they will come back when they have the photo print outs, but they aren't able to deliver on the promise, probably because of the treacherous

paths that you need to take to get there. But now, with the Epson printer that we've brought to the mountain, for the first time, the locals get a copy of their photos," beamed Tracey Heppner, founder of PFAC.

"There are a lot of stories here, and it was a pleasure capturing them through photographs. There was a father who posed with his kids—he lost his wife a while ago. There was an old man who has never even seen a photo of himself. There were a couple of kids who were waiting on me the whole day, and when I finally gave them their picture, they ran straight home to keep it safe. But perhaps the most memorable is this old woman who asked me how many months it would take for me to give her her photo—she had cancer, and she was anxious that she won't be around when I come back. When I explained that she'd get it right away, there were tears in her eyes," narrated Heppner.



CAC celebrates the environment with Coastal Care project

On June 6, 2015, Columbian Autocar Corporation (CAC) gathered its workforce for its annual CSR initiative, dubbed as CAC Coastal Care.

The event, which was held in Lobo, Batangas, mobilized executives and employees from all departments of CAC to clear the Lobo seashore of debris.

In lieu of their annual CSR theme of "A cleaner tomorrow begins today," CAC partnered with Lobo Water District (LWD) to carry out the mission of caring for the coast. LWD works with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the conservation, protection, and sustainable development of watershed areas under the water district's jurisdiction.

To drive LWD's environment-friendly efforts such as coastal clean-ups and greening programs further, CAC donated PHP 20,000 for their cause.



CAC Marketing Manager, Nenuka Guba, acknowledged everyone's continuing commitment to the cause. "Last year, CAC started its CSR program with a tree-planting project in Lumban, Laguna called 'Greener Tomorrow'. Not only were we able to contribute to the national greening program

but we also saw how much the employees appreciated being one with nature," she said.

The pursuit of a greener and cleaner tomorrow is far from over but CAC is committed in taking the steps to achieve this goal for Mother Nature.

Power Mac Center debuts at Philippine Fashion Week

On June 12, Power Mac Center made its debut at the runways of Philippine Fashion Week with its extensive catalog of mobile accessories.

Power Mac Center, as the official technology retail partner of the country's grandest fashion gathering, took to the runways its premium mobile accessories from global lifestyle brands. Models gracefully donned the brand's mobile accessories as fashion statement pieces and must-haves in this digital era.

"This has been one of the most exciting ventures for Power Mac Center, and we are delighted to work together with Philippine Fashion Week. Our synergy is a reflection of fashion and technology crossing paths to bring about stylish mobile accessories that deliver a visual feast of style, color, and texture," said Power Mac Center marketing director, Joey Alvarez.

Power Mac Center brand ambassadors: Jeron Teng for Beats by Dr. Dre; Gretchen Ho for Happy Plugs; Daniel Matsunaga for Moshi; Mari Jasmine for CaseMate; Rovilson Fernandez



for Gosh; and Vanessa Matsunaga for Knomo London also graced the event.

The featured brands showcased its respective collections of audio products, laptop bags,

phone cases, and power banks that impeccably complemented the Holiday 2015 Collections of Filipino designers: Arnold Galang, Lyle Ibañez, Anthony Nocom, Boyet Dysangco, Roland Alzate, Jeffrey Rogador, and Sydney Perez Pio.

iflix enters partnership with Philippine TOYCON

Southeast Asia's newest internet TV service, iflix, recently partnered up with Philippine TOYCON to bring the entertainment revolution to one of Asia's biggest hobbies and collectibles convention.

As co-presenters of the event, iflix gave out trial subscriptions and special gifts to attendees from days 1 to 3. At the iflix booth visitors had the chance to conveniently sign up for the service and see the service' thousands of hours of TV and movie content such as *Arrow*, *Sherlock*, *Dr. Who*, *Batman Begins*, *Watchmen*, *Iron Man*, *Thor*, *Marvel's Agents of SHIELD*, among others.

iflix gave out special awards during the TOYCON Cosplay Competition. Entrants dressed up as characters from TV shows or movies shown on iflix who participated in the individual, group, and

kiddie competitions had the chance to win cash prizes up to PHP 20,000 and 1-year subscriptions to iflix.

Now on its 14th year, Philippine TOYCON 2015 "Battlegrounds of Play" became a platform for everyone to celebrate and bring out the child in them. Highlights this year included a grand DC Comics exhibit from Pacific Licensing, previews of upcoming films from Universal Pictures, and a hands-on experience with the iflix platform for all attendees.

The 2015 Philippine TOYCON was held last June 19-21, 2015 at the SM Megatrade Halls 1, 2 and 3, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.



IdeaSpace wraps up third season

IdeaSpace Foundation has concluded the third season of its annual startup competition that discovers, incubates, and accelerates the country's most innovative and game-changing ideas. Ten finalist groups were announced during the culmination night, each of which received PHP 500,000 in seed funding, and PHP 500,000 worth of business management classes, marketing and financial consulting, intellectual property consulting and incorporation, office space, and business registration costs, among others.

Earl Martin Valencia, president and co-founder of IdeaSpace, comments that each startup discovered by the organization will help push the Philippines towards the forefront of the world's best digital economies. Currently, the country is classified as a "break-out" nation by the recent global Digital Evolution Index study conducted by the US-based Fletcher School at Tufts University.

"Today we're part of the 'break-out' nations, but we need to keep the momentum going by taking significant steps toward elevating the digital readiness of each Filipino through various innovations with impact. That has been one of the cornerstones of IdeaSpace from the beginning, and we're glad that more



Filipinos are now adopting a mindset toward technopreneurship," Valencia noted.

The top 10 startups of 2015 were selected from a record-breaking 1,028 applications coming from every region in the country and from 15 countries around the world.

"We're glad that innovation and technopreneurship have taken a stronghold not just in the major urban areas of the country, but even in far-flung areas in the region.

The participation of every Filipino all over the country is critical in developing a strong digital economy for the Philippines," added Marthyn Cuan, IdeaSpace co-founder.

To date, IdeaSpace has invested in 19 local startups through its annual competition, as well as nine startups outside the program. The organization is more than halfway through its PHP 500-million five-year commitment towards developing the local startup and technopreneur scene.

Lenovo reveals SEA plan of attack

Lenovo has unveiled the company's new business models and strategies for 2015 to its Philippine channel partners. This is part of its continuous shift on the entire device and connected ecosystem with increased emphasis on human-centric design, from wearables and smartphones to tablets, PCs, servers, and software, as well as cloud services.

Lenovo will continue to increase investments to the Philippine market in its bid to become a leader in all segments. Key areas of investment include: geographical and channel expansion; relationship building with business partners; retail presence growth; company infrastructure and resources improvements; after-sales enhancements; and more innovative products to suit Filipinos even more.

Dr. Harry Yang, vice president and general manager of Lenovo's Southeast Asia operations, commented "On the business front, we see strong growth momentum in Southeast Asia with the Philippines being a key growth driver in

the region for Lenovo. Southeast Asia is a mix of mature markets with an appetite for premium and cutting-edge technology, as well as fast-growing emerging markets with entry-level technology penetration, giving us the opportunity to grow market share quickly."

In the coming year, the company remains confident that industries such as banking, business process outsourcing, logistics, healthcare, and education will continue to flourish in the Philippines, and this gives the technology leaders an excellent opportunity to continue showcasing innovative IT solutions.

"We remain optimistic about the outlook of the Philippine market, especially in the light of the ASEAN Economic Community integration this year. We will continue to tap on market opportunities and maintain a strong execution of our 'Protect and Attack' strategy to propel the Philippine market to greater heights," concluded Michael Ngan, country general manager of Lenovo Philippines.



Ayala Museum's Diorama Exhibit gets a 3D AR upgrade

On June 12, past and present met at the Ayala Museum as it took a huge stride towards digital modernization with the introduction of a dynamic 3D Augmented Reality (AR) feature to supplement the museum's Diorama Experience of Philippine History exhibition.

The significant upgrade to the dioramas was made possible in partnership with the Harish and Johnsen Group. Notably, these dioramas which are visual depictions of iconic scenes in Philippine history were already present since the inaugural exhibition of Ayala Museum when it opened in 1974.

"An iconic part of childhood for many a Filipino thanks to school tours and family visits to the museum, the Dioramas were envisioned to be a compelling way to tell the rich history of our country," described Mariles Gustilo, senior director for Arts and Culture of Ayala Foundation, Inc.

To experience the new AR feature conceptualized, designed, and developed by Harish & Johnsen—further supported by Globe, Avida Land, and Power Mac Center—users can simply rent special AR units upon entering the museum of which they can use within the Diorama Experience of Philippine History exhibition. Triggering the AR is simple, visitors just have to prop the device in

front of one of eighteen AR-ready dioramas. Through the display of the device, historic scenes will be brought to life in animations, sound effects, and voice narrations.

"We've given the Diorama Exhibit a whole new experience, not only by combining but actually bridging the gap between traditional arts and sophisticated science. We are not just revolutionizing the experience but we are actually witnessing evolution unwrap itself right before our very eyes, at the palm of our hands—literally. And it is here at the museum," said Shirah Ragos Segarra, vice president of The Harish & Johnsen Group.

This feat is the first 3D-on-3D augmented reality feature offered by a museum in the Philippines and Asia. During the launch, Globe postpaid subscribers were treated with free admission and were able to download a free version of the AR application, while prepaid users were afforded huge discounts in entrance fees. Avida Land also participated in the public launch by providing free AR-ready devices for guests to try out the museum's latest mobile feature.

Visitors may now rent units for PHP 95 at the Ayala Museum ticket counter to try the augmented reality feature.



Users can also virtually visit the Ayala Museum dioramas through the Google Art Project (www.googleartproject.com) and via the Google Cardboard app available in Google Play and displayed in Globe GEN3 stores.

Ayala Museum is located at Makati Avenue corner De La Rosa Street, Greenbelt Park, Makati City. It is open from Tuesday to Sunday from 9 AM to 6 PM. For more information, visit www.ayalamuseum.org or email hello@ayalamuseum.org or call (632) 759 82 88.

HOOQ reaches 1 million streaming minutes mark

Pinoys are steadily flocking to HOOQ as the online entertainment service continues to grow through its partnership with Globe Telecom. Produced by SingTel, Sony Pictures Television, and Warner Bros. Entertainment, HOOQ is only two months old and yet has already garnered 1-million streaming minutes and over 30,000 combined downloads from the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

HOOQ is currently working on tapping more content partners to add to their current lineup which includes Sony, Warner, ABS-CBN, GMA-7, Regal Entertainment, Viva Communications, Disney, Dreamworks, and Miramax. HOOQ users should expect AAA films and TV shows such as *Scandal*, *Gery's Anatomy*, *Iron Man*, *Armageddon*, *Social Network*, *Pulp Fiction*, and *The English Patient*, to name a few.

"We are very happy that more and more Filipinos are enjoying easy, affordable, and hassle-free access to HOOQ as evidenced by its fast-growing subscriber base. Asia's biggest content library first launched in Philippines to give *Pinoys* access

to their favorite international and local movies and TV series on their smartphones, computers, or tablets. HOOQ is definitely revolutionizing the way we all consume and enjoy entertainment. Filipinos can definitely look forward to more innovations and content from HOOQ with Globe enabling access of this service to more users and more devices," said Dan Horan, senior advisor for Consumer Business at Globe.

Mobile Globe users subscribed to GoSURF299 and up can access HOOQ for free. Those using the Android, iOS, and web apps can also register to HOOQ 199 for 30 days non-data access; HOOQ 299 for 30 days access with 1GB worth of mobile streaming; and HOOQ 499 for 2GB worth of data access. Meanwhile, laptop, desktop, and tablet users can subscribe to



Tattoo Home consumable Plan 1299 and up for free HOOQ access.

HOOQ is looking to add more than 1.4-billion people to their user base as they expand operations to Thailand and India.



The Little Lost Child



Fantasia

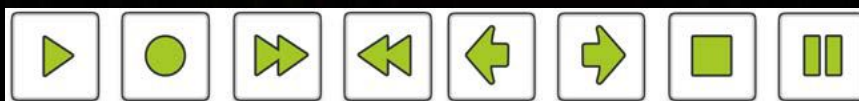


Jail Jailhouse Rock

Music Video

Words by Jose Alvarez

Everyone loves a well-made music video—after all, video did kill the radio star at some point. But what was the motivation for bands to do music videos? Although Music Television (MTV) was the first television channel to blend music and television and was staple viewing for some of our older readers, the music video goes even further back than that.



Beatles "A Hard Day's Night"



The Buggles "Video Killed The Radio Star"



Scream

The first concept of a music video came even before television itself—in 1894, sheet music publishers hired an electrician, George Thomas, and other musicians to promote the song "The Little Lost Child" using projected still images on a screen alongside live performances. The concept, called an illustrated song, was a precursor to the music video.

By the advent of "talkies" (movies with sound) in the 1920s, many short cartoons were made that enticed audiences to sing along to popular songs. In the 1930s, popular films such as *Fantasia* heavily incorporated music alongside videos, and by the 1940s, several musicians were making short films to accompany their songs, such as American jazz singer Louis Jordan.

By the 1950s, legendary musician Tony Bennett created what he called "the first music video" when he was filmed walking in London's Serpentine in Hyde Park. The film was set to the recording of the song *Stranger in Paradise* by Robert Wright and George Forrest, which Bennett also covered. Other popular artists of the time were also featured in precursors to music videos, such as Elvis Presley's *Jailhouse Rock*.

By 1964, the Beatles rose to fame thanks in part to the music video. *A Hard Day's Night*, a mockumentary (mock documentary) produced by the band, inspired many bands to also create their own music videos. The mockumentary used comedic elements and dialogue and interspersed them with popular Beatles songs such as "A Hard Day's Night," "She Loves You," and "Can't Buy Me Love."

The Beatles made promotional clips for their music so they didn't have to tour as much (they stopped touring altogether in 1966). Other contemporary artists started recording these clips as well, such as Bob Dylan, Pink Floyd, and The Rolling Stones. Concert films were also beginning to become popular in the 1960s, and shows such as *American Bandstand* allowed artists to be seen on television, which became the new popular medium at the time.

By the 1970s, television and music were more intertwined with each other in the United Kingdom and Australia, which had shows such as *Top of the Pops* and *Sounds* which featured local acts and several international ones as well. *Video Concert Hall* launched in 1979 and became the first "music television" channel in the United States. Many artists in the 1970s were featured on these shows, such as Queen and AC/DC.

By 1981, Music Television (MTV) launched in the United States, and was largely credited with helping music videos go mainstream. The first music video ever played on the network, The Buggles' "Video Killed The Radio Star," was already an international hit, topping 16 international music charts. However, The Buggles disbanded later that year and keyboardist Geoff Downes formed another rock group, Asia, who made another popular music video for the song "Heat of the Moment," which reached the top of the *Billboard* charts for Mainstream Rock in the United States.

By the mid 1980s, music videos were mandatory if any artist wanted to gain fame. Artists such as Duran Duran, Michael Jackson, and Bruce Springsteen benefited greatly from their music videos. Michael Jackson's 1983 song "Thriller" was one of the most expensive music videos at the time, which was made at a cost of USD 800,000. Music television for certain genres also popped up, such as Country Music Television (CMT) in 1983, which catered to country music fans, and Video Hits One (VH1) in 1985 catered to an older audience. *Yo! MTV Raps*, which catered to rap and hip-hop fans, debuted in 1988.

The first awards show for music videos, the MTV Video Music Awards (VMAs) were also launched in 1985. During the decade, the rise of the personal computer and advances in technology also allowed music videos to become more complex. The 1985 Dire Straits song "Money For Nothing" made extensive use of computer animation, and the song ironically took a shot at MTV itself for its reputation of having outlandish images and personalities. The English rock band Genesis also

made wide use of computer animation, and one of their members, Peter Gabriel, was noted for his usage of special effects and computer animation in the music videos of his solo work.

By the 1990s, the power of music videos started shifting towards the directors. Spike Jonze and Hype Williams are two of the most well-known music video directors, however, Mark Romanek was responsible for two of the most expensive music videos at the time: Michael and Janet Jackson's "Scream" cost USD 7-million to produce, and Madonna's "Bedtime Story" cost USD 5-million to produce. Several music video directors also went on to direct movies, such as Jonze, F. Gary Gray, and Michel Gondry.

During the decade, MTV also spread to markets such as Latin America (1993), India (1996), and China (1997). This movement gave these markets localized versions of the network, and MTV2, which showed alternative and older music videos, was created in 1996. However, a reality TV show would spell MTV's fall from grace when it came to music television: MTV's *The Real World*, which launched in 1992 and continues to this very day, was seen as the beginning of the end of MTV as a purely music television channel.

By the 2000s, MTV largely abandoned its music television format and started focusing on reality television shows, and music videos saw the Internet as the new way to gain views. YouTube and MySpace were two of the main websites to view music videos during the decade. Weezer's song "Pork and Beans" largely lampooned internet culture and featured many YouTube personalities. Vevo came into being in 2009 through the efforts of several large music publishers as a "successor" to MTV. These videos are then syndicated to YouTube.

Although the technology to create music videos was there as early as the launch of television, it didn't take off until the early 1980s. Nowadays, we see the music video as something we watch on YouTube, but previous generations generally watched MTV for hours, amazed at the imagery that music could create with the medium of television.

Have the “Best Day” Everyday at Petron



Industry leader Petron Corporation is taking customer delight to a new level with the promise of giving motorists the “best day of your life” through world-class products, quality service, as well as exciting rewards and privileges. These brand values are at the core of the company’s ‘Best Day at Petron’ marketing campaign for the rest of the year.

WORLD CLASS PRODUCTS

Petron takes pride in being the country’s biggest and only Filipino oil refiner. As such, it has a deep understanding of the needs of Filipino motorists, enabling it to offer world-class fuels and engine oils that are tailor-fit to Philippine driving conditions.

Its extensive range of gasoline and diesel fuels—Petron Blaze 100 Euro 4, Petron XCS, Petron Xtra Advance, and Petron Super Xtra, as well as Petron Turbo Diesel and Petron Diesel Max—are all specially formulated to deliver optimum performance. These are complemented by engine oils designed to offer the best engine protection.

Petron is a trailblazer in fuels technology. After pioneering the first and only Euro-4 compliant gasoline with 100-octane rating—Blaze 100 Euro 4—the leading oil firm recently launched a full line-up of gasoline variants that adhere to Euro-4 standards. This means that all Petron gasoline products are now more efficient and environment-friendly.

Whether you are driving a sports car, a family van, a cargo truck, a motorcycle, or a public utility vehicle, there is a Petron product designed just for you with the best value.

QUALITY SERVICE

Petron’s pioneering Lakbay Alalay is the country’s longest-running motorist assistance program, which has now evolved into a year-round road safety advocacy. With its partners, Petron Lakbay Alalay offers free vehicle safety checks, first aid and medical assistance, product sampling, mobile phone charging stations, and even a free 15-massage for the road-weary. As your trusted

companion on the road for almost 30 years, you can always rely on Petron Lakbay Alalay, “*kasama mo sa biyahe!*”

If you are going on a road trip with your family and friends, make Petron part of your journey. The Petron mega-stations along the expressways offer lots of parking spaces, clean rest rooms, and a wide variety of food outlets. These have been recognized by the Department of Transportation and Communication–Toll Regulatory Board (DOTC-TRB) as having the best and most gender-responsive service facilities in the tollways. Petron SLEX San Pedro, Petron NLEX Marilao, and Petron NLEX Bocaue bested 14 other service stations in the expressways for the “2014 Most Gender-Responsive Tollway Service Facility” Awards.

Offering one-stop convenience, you can do more than just gas up at Petron service stations. With more than 100 partner-merchants, you can withdraw from ATMs, buy snacks or refreshments from Treats or San Mig Food Ave, avail of a check-up for your vehicle, buy lubes, or dine at a food outlet before heading back to the road.

Also doing their best to help you have the “best day of your life” are, of course, the Petron service crew, who will not only fill up your fuel tank but also clean your windshield, throw out your trash, check your tire pressure, and top up your fluid levels, to make sure that your trip is enjoyable and worry-free.

EXCITING REWARDS

Petron Value Card, a special rewards and privilege card for motorists, allows you to earn points each time you fuel up. Accepted in over 1,000 participating stations nationwide, Petron Value Card allows you to save your cash and pay for your gas with points earned. It also gives you discounts on Petron products, and exclusive deals and promos from partner establishments.

At the Petron mega-stations, there are exclusive members-only restrooms for Petron Value Card holders. For your peace of mind, you also get essential motorist protection on the road with the

extra assurance of personal accident insurance coverage, free 24-hour towing, and roadside assistance.

The Petron Value Card app, which you can download for free on your smartphone, provides details about promos and services at your fingertips for added convenience.

THE “BEST DAY” EVERYDAY

“At Petron, the customer is always first,” noted Petron general manager Lubin Nepomuceno.

Petron is driven by its commitment to deliver the “best day” everyday to Filipino motorists and their families, through world-class fuels and engine oils, quality customer service, and exciting rewards and privileges to its loyal customers.

From its mega-stations with many convenience facilities and partner-establishments located along the expressways, to the small, strategically-located micro-filling stations in remote, rural locations, Petron wants to bring its world-class products and quality services closer and more accessible to Filipino motorists, from all walks of life.

All Petron service stations are built and operated to stringent standards to ensure that you get fuels that are tested and handled meticulously every step of the way, accurate volume every time you gas up, customer service that goes the extra mile, and exclusive rewards and privileges that bring happy smiles.



Best Day 
@  PETRON



We believe in giving everyone our best.

WORLD-CLASS FUELS **QUALITY SERVICE** **EXCITING REWARDS**

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BLAZE 100
OCTANE

PETRON BLAZE 100 is formulated and developed to unleash the full potential of modern and high performance vehicles.

XCS 95
OCTANE

PETRON XCS is the 95 octane, triple-action premium gasoline that provides quick engine response, superior engine protection and optimal fuel efficiency.

XTRA 93
ADVANCE OCTANE

PETRON XTRA ADVANCE, is the 93 octane gasoline with an advance fully synthetic detergent additive that effectively cleans the engine for a more fuel-efficient operation.

PETRON SUPER 91
OCTANE

PETRON SUPER XTRA GASOLINE has 91 octane and contains a powerful detergent additive that cleans away and prevents harmful engine deposits. It also protects the fuel system from corrosion.



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